

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4304
May 5, 2005

CHAIRMAN, ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY
HEALTH
ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS
SCIENCE
ENERGY
SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

ENSURE QUALITY CANCER CARE FOR MEDICARE PATIENTS
Urge CMS to Extend The Cancer Care Demonstration Project

SUPPORT H. RES. 261

Dear Colleague:

Please join me by supporting H.Res.261. It commends CMS for implementing the Medicare demonstration project to assess the quality of care of cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, and calls on CMS to extend the project, subject to any appropriate modifications, at least through 2006.

As you know, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) significantly reformed the way Medicare pays for chemotherapy administered in doctors' offices. These reforms resulted in considerable reductions in Medicare payments to cancer care.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) following efforts by many Members of Congress, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), patient advocacy groups, and others in the cancer community, implemented a one-year demonstration project that provided resources to assess the patient experience with chemotherapy side effects. These include pain, nausea and vomiting, and fatigue. This demonstration project has achieved three important objectives: 1) collecting data to improve the quality of cancer care, 2) maintaining stability in the cancer care delivery system, and 3) focusing limited resources in an aspect of cancer treatment most difficult for patients.

The demonstration project was critically important to protecting quality cancer care in 2005. I need your help in urging CMS to refine and extend the demonstration project. This is vital to ensuring quality cancer care continues beyond 2005. If you have any questions, please contact Leslee Gilbert in my office at 6-5724.

Sincerely,

Ralph M. Hall
Member of Congress

Please reply to:

2405 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4304
(202) 226-8673
(202) 225-3332 FAX
e-mail: rmhall@mail.house.gov

BOWIE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
700 JAMES BOWIE DRIVE
NEW BOSTON, TX 75570-2328
(903) 628-8309
(903) 628-8320 FAX

104 NORTH SAN JACINTO STREET
ROCKWALL, TX 75087-2508
(972) 771-9118
(972) 722-0907 FAX

101 EAST PECAN STREET
SHERMAN, TX 75090-5989
(903) 892-1112
(903) 866-0264 FAX

U.S. POST OFFICE
320 CHURCH STREET, SUITE 132
SULPHUR SPRINGS, TX 75482-2806
(903) 885-8138
(903) 439-0874 FAX