

October 20, 2011

The Honorable Jack Markell  
Governor of Delaware  
Tatnall Building  
William Penn Street, 2nd Fl.  
Dover, DE 19901

Rita Landgraf  
Secretary, Department of Health & Social Services  
1901 North DuPont Highway, Administration Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Fl.  
New Castle, DE 19720

Dear Governor Markell and Secretary Landgraf,

We understand that the Delaware State Health and Human Services Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee has decided not to conduct a review of oral oncology agents during the scheduled November 3, 2011 meeting. We are writing to applaud the state for maintaining open access and for not imposing restrictions on medicines in this therapeutic area. Oncology agents are typically exempted from PDL review, with Medicaid granting access to all agents due to the life threatening nature of cancer. Adding oncology medicines to the list of classes to be reviewed would have raised concerns that Delaware could move to restrict access to cancer medicines for Medicaid program patients.

Cancer patients on Medicaid already have poorer survival rates than their commercially insured counterparts.<sup>1</sup> Restricting access to necessary medications would only exacerbate these already significant disparities, and this is a risk we do not believe the citizens of Delaware should take. We already know that Delaware is, unfortunately, among the top states in the country when measuring both cancer incidence and cancer mortality.<sup>2</sup>

We appreciate the role of the P&T Committee and value the important decisions that they make on behalf of Delaware's Medicaid program. We thank you and your administration for facilitating open access to oral oncology medicines by the cancer patients of Delaware.

Respectfully submitted by the following patient and provider advocate organizations on behalf of their Delaware chapters and/or constituents:



<sup>1</sup> "Association of Insurance with Cancer Care Utilization and Outcomes." Published online Dec. 20, 2007, and in the Jan/Feb 2008 issue of *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* (Vol. 58, No.1). First author: Elizabeth Ward, PhD, American Cancer Society. <http://caonline.amcancersoc.org/cgi/content/full/CA.2007.0011v1#BIB50> (accessed May 20, 2010)

<sup>2</sup> *Cancer Facts & Figures 2010*, American Cancer Society.