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The American Urological Association (AUA) represents more than 15,000 urologists nationally, who care for patients with conditions affecting the urinary-tract system. As the preeminent professional urological organizations, we are committed to patient-centered legislative, regulatory, and ethical policies conforming with best practices in adult and pediatric urology. We are writing to support insurance coverage of biomarker testing when medically appropriate.

Biomarker tests are blood tests that can be performed for people diagnosed with a variety of cancers, to detect genes, proteins and other molecules (called biomarkers or tumor markers) which can clarify individual cancer risk and also suggest tumor-specific therapies. Each individual's cancer has a unique pattern of biomarkers. Some biomarkers suggest the level of aggressiveness of certain cancers, others affect how certain cancer treatments work.ⁱ Because there are many different types of cancer and the specific type varies from person to person, biomarkers give the cancer care team a way to gather as much information as possible about a patient's type of cancer. Biomarker testing helps to target the right cancer treatments and can help diagnose and monitor cancer during and after treatment.

A significant number of cancer patients and survivors do not receive biomarker testing because it is not covered by their insurance carrier and the out-of-pocket costs are too high. The price for biomarker testing and the price of related treatments are separate and significantly different. For example, the average price for a biomarker test is \$1,700, whereas the average price for drugs used in treating cancer range between \$90,000 to over \$300,000. Some research has shown biomarker testing is cost-effective and has the potential to improve treatment costs.ⁱⁱ

Key Facts:

- Biomarker testing looks at mutations, additions, deletions, or rearrangements in DNA.
- Biomarker testing can also detect levels certain key proteins or the amount of tumor DNA in the blood.
- Knowing this information can help influence treatment optionsⁱⁱⁱ.
- Biomarker testing can be cost-effective and has the potential to improve treatment costs and outcomes.

The American Urological Association urge support for HB 608 to ensure more Ohioans can benefit from of biomarker testing.

Thank you for your consideration.



American
Urological
Association

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- i. [Biomarker Testing for Cancer Treatment](#), National Institute of Health, National Cancer Institute
 - ii. [Do cancer biomarkers make targeted therapies cost-effective? A systematic review in metastatic colorectal cancer](#), PMC PubMed Central
 - iii. [Lung Cancer Biomarker Testing](#), American Lung Association