



# Medicare Coverage of Cancer Treatment

According to the American Cancer Society, 40% of men and 39% of women will develop cancer in their lifetime, and 80% of new cancer cases in the United States are diagnosed in people over the age of 55. Understanding how Medicare covers cancer screening and treatment can help protect you from unexpected costs so you can focus on recovery.

## Preventive Screening

Along with a healthy lifestyle, early detection is the best way to beating a cancer diagnosis and leads to higher rates of remission. Medicare covers many preventive screening tests for cancer including cervical & vaginal cancer screenings, colorectal cancer screening, lung cancer screening, mammograms, and prostate cancer screenings.

## Treatment Options

A comprehensive cancer treatment plan will include one or more of the following, all of which can be covered by Medicare:

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation
- Hormone Therapy
- Immunotherapy
- Genetic Therapy

Medicare will also cover 2nd and 3rd opinions.

The average annual out-of-pocket costs for cancer treatment ranges from **\$2,116 to \$8,225** depending on what type of Medicare coverage you have.

JAMA Oncology "Out-of-Pocket Spending and Financial Burden Among Medicare Beneficiaries with Cancer", 6/2017

## Things to Consider

While Medicare pays a large portion of the cost of cancer treatment, there are still ways to prevent unexpected costs. Make sure your doctors, oncologists and other specialists accept Medicare Assignment - this will help cap the potential out-of-pocket costs and remove any hassle to paying your providers. For those with a Medicare Advantage plan, check your plan's provider directory to verify your desired cancer treatment center or oncology group is in-network, as many centers of excellence do not participate with all Medicare Advantage plans.

**Thank You for Attending!**

**Presented by:**