

# MSCO NEWSLETTER

*Dedicated to Improving Cancer Care & Treatment Together*

Spring 2022



## Future Plans

### MSCO Embarks on a Strategic Planning Process

Since its founding, The Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncologists (MSCO) has been the voice for cancer physicians and their patients in the state. As we think about how best to continue our legacy and ensure that our Society remains robust and relevant, the Board of Directors has undertaken an effort to envision a future that best meets our community's needs.

We need your help! Please take a few minutes to answer [this anonymous survey](#). Thank you for your time and insights!

Take Survey

## WHAT 'S NEW

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- MSCO Strategic Plan
- ACS CAN Lobby Day
- Legislative Updates
- NCTA Biomarkers
- FDA APPROVALS



## Virtual ACS CAN Massachusetts Lobby Day

It's almost the end of March, which means we're just a few weeks away from the [Virtual ACS CAN Massachusetts Lobby Day!](#)

On **April 6th**, dozens of ACS CAN volunteers will be heading to the Massachusetts State House to voice opinions with State Senator and Representative and ask them to support ACS CAN priority legislation to make this a truly impactful day.

Lobby Day is an amazing opportunity to meet with your lawmakers and share your cancer story. They want to hear how cancer has impacted your life, and what they can do to help support policies that will help end cancer in the Commonwealth.

The ACS CAN Massachusetts team makes it easy! They'll schedule your meetings and train you on our priority issues, including everything you need to know for a successful meeting with your lawmakers.

Register & Attend

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This year has been brimming with lots of updates including the following:

### January

- DPH Notice and Disclosure Requirements for Health Care Providers. These requirements took effect on January 1, 2022 and penalties will take effect July 1.

### February

- Bills [S.644 & H.1053](#), was given a favorable report and the bills were voted out of the committee! This copay assistance programs help patients afford med but insurers don't always count those towards a patient's deductible.
- Telehealth Regulations: MSCO signs on, along with the Massachusetts Telemedicine Coalition, [sending a letter to DOI](#) requesting action.
- Gov. Baker approved much of the COVID-19 spending bill including:
  - The provision that **reinstates liability immunity protections** for health care providers and entities where a patient's care has been impacted by COVID-19 and its variants.
  - **Delay's implementation of the state's notice and disclosure law** that was issued as a DPH bulletin "Health Care Provider Obligations", which outlines the patient notification provisions of Chapter 260. Implementation is delayed until July 31, 2022.

### March

- Congress passed a [budget bill](#) that includes an increase in funding for cancer research.
- Governor Baker released his long awaited health care bill. This closely mirrors the bill he filed last session. [Attached is the office summary of the bill](#). The Governor's office has said the bill is divided up into three major parts:
  1. Prioritizing Primary Care and Behavioral Health
  2. Managing Health Care Cost Drivers
  3. Improving Access to High-Quality Coordinated Care



## ***What Employers Need to Know about Biomarker Testing***

The NCTA, National Cancer Treatment Alliance, is focused specifically on employers; awareness, education and importance of high quality cancer care.

On February 24th, the NCTA presented a national webinar, “What Employers Need to Know about Biomarker Testing”. They are pleased to announce that the webinar is now available for viewing, along with the biomarker toolkit and resources below as well as on the [NCTA website](#).

- [Employer & Coalition Biomarker Testing Webinar Recording](#)
- [In-Depth Educational Presentation on the Value of Biomarker Testing](#)
- [Action Brief on Biomarker Testing: What Employers Need to Know](#)
- [Patient Journey Biomarker Testing Infographic](#)



**FDA APPROVES CARVYKTI™ (CILTACABTAGENE AUTOLEUCEL), JANSSEN'S FIRST CELL THERAPY**

**01 Mar 2022**

U.S. FDA Approves *CARVYKTI™* (ciltacabtagene autoleucl), Janssen's First Cell Therapy, a BCMA-Directed CAR-T Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Patients with Relapsed or Refractory Multiple Myeloma (RRMM) after four or more prior lines of therapy, including a proteasome inhibitor, an immunomodulatory agent, and an anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody. [More Information.](#)

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**FDA APPROVES OPDIVO® (NIVOLUMAB) WITH CHEMOTHERAPY AS NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN ADULT PATIENTS WITH RESECTABLE NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER**

**07 Mar 2022**

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved *Opdivo®* (nivolumab) 360 mg (injection for intravenous use) in combination with platinum-doublet chemotherapy every three weeks for three cycles for adult patients with resectable (tumors ≥4 cm or node positive) non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) in the neoadjuvant setting. [More Information.](#)

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**ASTRAZENECA ANNOUNCED THAT THE FDA HAS APPROVED A NEW INDICATION FOR LYNPARZA® (OLAPARIB)**

**14 Mar 2022**

AstraZeneca and MSD's *Lynparza* (olaparib) has been approved in the US for the adjuvant treatment of patients with germline BRCA-mutated (gBRCAm) HER2-negative high-risk early breast cancer who have already been treated with chemotherapy either before or after surgery. Please see the [attached document](#) for more information regarding the use of LYNPARZA in this new indication. [Press Release.](#)

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**FDA APPROVES FIRST LAG-3-BLOCKING ANTIBODY COMBINATION, OPDUALAG™ (NIVOLUMAB AND RELATLIMAB-RMBW), AS TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS WITH UNRESECTABLE OR METASTATIC MELANOMA**

**21 Mar 2022**

*Opdualag™* (nivolumab and relatlimab-rmbw), a new, first-in-class, fixed-dose combination of nivolumab and relatlimab, administered as a single intravenous infusion, was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients 12 years of age or older with unresectable or metastatic melanoma. [More Information.](#)



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