



SAVING LIVES AND ADVANCING
RESEARCH BY EMPOWERING
THOSE LIVING WITH AND
AT RISK FOR LUNG CANCER.

LungCancerAlliance.org

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October 19, 2017

Craig Samitt, M.D.
Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer
Anthem, Inc.
120 Monument Circle
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Submitted Electronically
Craig.Samitt@anthem.com

Dear Dr. Samit:

On behalf of Lung Cancer Alliance (LCA), I am writing to urge Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield to reconsider its recent policy change in at least nine states to deny coverage of Computed Tomography (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) services performed in hospital outpatient departments. As one of the nation's leading and highest rated non-profit, since 1995 we have played a critical role in every major advance in changing how we support, talk about, detect and treat lung cancer. In this capacity, we are concerned of the potential adverse impact this policy could have on early detection efforts in the high risk population and lung cancer patients' timely access to appropriate treatment and care.

LCA's core healthcare principle is to ensure a people-centered healthcare system that works to match the right care deemed necessary by the individual and their physician. Restricting patients to specific sites of care for advanced radiologic imaging runs counter to this in several ways that are of deep concern to us.

First, restricting patient and physician choice limits access to quality care and interferes with the patient and physician's right to choose the best care options for that individual. We have already seen cases of steorage that have resulted in patients receiving poorer quality of care and sometimes repetitive testing that can increase harm risks.

Secondly, these restrictions will result in delayed care. Potential delays could occur while making arrangements from the ordering physician's site to an alternate approved site of service. Inner city and rural patients may have the hospital outpatient setting as their only immediate access point for care. Additionally, barriers to access would result if a patient was directed to a location not convenient or easily accessible to them. This policy will make completing treatment follow-up even more difficult, thus impacting outcomes. Consistency in medical care is vital to diagnosis and treatments.

Thirdly, this policy will have the chilling effect of slowing – not accelerating – the deployment of and access to a newly approved life-saving screening benefit for those at high risk for lung cancer. Only recently have the US Preventive Services Task Force and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recommended screening using low dose CT for a high risk populations. Lung cancer screening is in early stages of national implementation.

At the end of this letter, you will find a list of the lung cancer screening programs in our network of Screening Centers of Excellence that will feel the impact of these policies. These programs have committed to following best practice protocols, which includes connection to a multidisciplinary lung cancer clinical team.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer among men and women in every state - and nationwide. An estimated 222,500 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed in 2017 accounting for 25% of all cancer diagnoses. As you know, timely and informed decisions on early detection and patient treatment will positively impact survival outcomes for lung cancer patients.

LCA has made it a priority to ensure that our community understands and has greater access to the best early diagnosis and treatment options that improve individualized outcomes. While we understand the concern with imaging costs, we feel the policy to redirect patients to less costly sites is short-sighted. The potential harm of diminished care access and decreased early detection under these new policies are extremely worrisome to our community. We therefore urge Anthem to work with our community to ensure patient access to these services.

As we further our mission of saving lives and advancing research by empowering those living with and at risk for lung cancer, LCA appreciates your consideration of the following comments. Please feel free to contact our Director of Health Policy, Elridge Proctor at 202-742-1427 or Eproctor@lungcanceralliance.org with any questions.

Sincerely,



Laurie Fenton-Ambrose
President and CEO
Lung Cancer Alliance

cc: Governors
 Insurance Commissioners

Lung Cancer Screening Programs Impacted by Policy

Facility Name	City	State
North Suburban Medical Center	Thornton	CO
Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center	Denver	CO
Rose Medical Center	Denver	CO
Lutheran Medical Center	Wheat Ridge	CO
National Jewish Health	Denver	CO
Penrose Hospital	Colorado Springs	CO
St. Francis Medical Center	Colorado Springs	CO
University of Colorado Hospital, UC Health	Aurora	CO
Cartersville Medical Center	Cartersville	GA
Coliseum Cancer Institute	Macon	GA
DeKalb Medical Center	Decatur	GA
Doctors Hospital	Augusta	GA
Eastside Medical Center	Snellville	GA
Gwinnett Medical Center 575 Outpatient Imaging Center	Lawrenceville	GA
Gwinnett Medical Center Imaging Center–Hamilton Mill	Dacula	GA
Gwinnett Medical Center-Lawrenceville	Lawrenceville	GA
Gwinnett Medical Center–Duluth	Duluth	GA
John B. Amos Cancer Center/ Columbus Regional Health	Columbus	GA
Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital	Albany	GA
Phoebe Sumter Radiology	Americus	GA
Redmond Regional Medical Center	Rome	GA
Candler Hospital	Savannah	GA
St. Joseph's/Candler Imaging Center--Pooler	Pooler	GA
St. Joseph's Hospital	Savannah	GA
Wellstar – Acworth Health Park, Imaging Center	Acworth	GA
Wellstar - Douglas Imaging Center	Douglasville	GA
Wellstar - East Cobb Imaging Center	Marietta	GA
Wellstar - Kennestone at Witcher Street	Marietta	GA
Wellstar - Kennestone Cancer Center	Marietta	GA
Wellstar - Paulding Imaging Center	Hiram	GA
Wellstar-South Cobb Imaging Center	Austell	GA
Clark Memorial Hospital	Jeffersonville	IN
Deaconess Hospital	Evansville	IN
Deaconess Gateway Hospital	Newburgh	IN
Elkhart General Hospital	Elkhart	IN
Franciscan St Anthony Health, Crown Point	Crown Point	IN
Franciscan St Anthony Health, Michigan City	Michigan City	IN
Franciscan Health Indianapolis	Indianapolis	IN

Franciscan Health Carmel	Carmel	IN
Franciscan Health Mooreville	Mooreville	IN
Franciscan Health Hammond	Hammond	IN
Franciscan Health Dyer	Dyer	IN
Franciscan Health Munster	Munster	IN
Good Samaritan Hospital	Vincennes	IN
Lutheran Hospital of Indiana	Fort Wayne	IN
Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center	Jasper	IN
Methodist Hospitals	Merrillville	IN
Baptist Health Lexington	Lexington	KY
KentuckyOne Health Flaget Memorial Hospital	Bardstown	KY
KentuckyOne Health Imaging-Richmond	Richmond	KY
KentuckyOne Health Imaging-London	London	KY
KentuckyOne Health Jewish Hospital	Louisville	KY
KentuckyOne Health Jewish Hospital Shelbyville	Shelbyville	KY
KentuckyOne Health Medical Center Jewish East	Louisville	KY
KentuckyOne Health Medical Center Jewish NorthEast	Louisville	KY
KentuckyOne Health Medical Center Jewish South	Shepherdsville	KY
KentuckyOne Health Medical Center Jewish Southwest	Louisville	KY
KentuckyOne Health Saint Joseph Martin	Martins Ferry	KY
KentuckyOne Health St Joseph East	Lexington	KY
Bluegrass Regional Imaging West	Lexington	KY
KentuckyOne Health St Joseph Jessamine	Nicholasville	KY
KentuckyOne Health St Joseph London	London	KY
KentuckyOne Health Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital	Louisville	KY
KentuckyOne Health University Of Louisville Hospital/ James Graham Brown Cancer Center	Louisville	KY
Bluegrass Regional Imaging East	Lexington	KY
KentuckyOne Health St. Joseph Mt. Sterling Hospital	Mt. Sterling	KY
KentuckyOne Health St. Joseph Hospital Berea	Berea	KY
Norton Healthcare	Louisville	KY
St. Elizabeth Healthcare--Covington	Covington	KY
St. Elizabeth Healthcare--Edgewood	Edgewood	KY
St. Elizabeth Healthcare--Florence	Florence	KY
St. Elizabeth Healthcare--Ft. Thomas	Ft. Thomas	KY
St. Elizabeth Healthcare--Grant	Williamstown	KY
St. Elizabeth Healthcare--Hebron Imaging Center	Hebron	KY
Mercy Hospital Joplin	Joplin	MO
Mercy Hospital St. Louis	St. Louis	MO
SSM Health De Paul Hospital--St. Louis	Bridgeton	MO
SSM Health St. Clare Hospital--Fenton	Fenton	MO
SSM Health St. Joseph Hospital--Lake St. Louis	Lake St. Louis	MO
SSM Health--St. Mary's Hospital	St. Louis	MO

SSM St. Joseph Hospital--St. Charles	St. Charles	MO
St. Luke's Hospital	Chesterfield	MO
Stewart Cancer Center at Boone Hospital Center	Columbia	MO
Missouri Baptist Medical Center	St. Louis	MO
Renown Imaging and X-Ray at South McCarran	Reno	NV
Renown Imaging and X-Ray at Vista	Sparks	NV
Renown Outpatient Imaging, Center for Advanced Medicine	Reno	NV
Renown Regional Medical Center	Reno	NV
Renown Medical Group	Sparks	NV
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	New York	NY
Glens Falls Hospital	Glens Falls	NY
John T. Mather Memorial Hospital	Port Jefferson	NY
Lourdes	Binghamton	NY
Maimonides Cancer Center	Brooklyn	NY
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center	New York	NY
Mercy Medical Center	Rockville Centre	NY
Mt. Sinai Health System	New York	NY
New York-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital	Cortlandt Manor	NY
New York-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital	New York	NY
New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Imaging	New York	NY
New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Imaging at Broadway	New York	NY
New York-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital	Bronxville	NY
Northern Westchester Hospital	Mt. Kisco	NY
Yorktown Imaging	Yorktown Heights	NY
Long Island Jewish Valley Stream	Valley Stream	NY
Glen Cove Hospital	Glen Cove	NY
Huntington Hospital	Huntington	NY
Lenox Hill Hospital	New York	NY
Long Island Jewish Forest Hills	Forest Hills	NY
Long Island Jewish Medical Center	New Hyde Park	NY
North Shore University Hospital	Manhasset	NY
Northwell Health Imaging at Garden City	Garden City	NY
Northwell Health Imaging at Great Neck	Great Neck	NY
Northwell Health Imaging at Great South Bay	Islip	NY
Northwell Health Imaging at Soyosset	Syosset	NY
Northwell Health Imaging at the Center for Advanced Medicine	Lake Success	NY
Northwell Health Reichert Family Imaging at Huntington	Greenlawn	NY
Plainview Hospital	Plainview	NY
Southside Hospital	Bay Shore	NY
Verrazano Imaging at SIUH (extension of SIUH)	Staten Island	NY

Northwell Health Imag at Greenwich Villa	Greenwich Village	NY
Northwell Health Imaging at Smithtown	Smithtown	NY
NYU Langone Medical Center	New York	NY
Phelps Memorial Hospital Center	Sleepy Hollow	NY
Stony Brook Medicine Lung Cancer Evaluation Center	Stony Brook	NY
United Health Services Hospitals, Inc.--Binghamton General Hospital	Binghamton	NY
United Health Services Hospitals, Inc.--Wilson Medical Center	Johnson City	NY
Upstate Cancer Center, Upstate Medical University Hospital	Syracuse	NY
Vassar Brothers Medical Center	Poughkeepsie	NY
White Plains Hospital	White Plains	NY
Windsong Radiology Group	Williamsville	NY
Winthrop University Hospital	Mineola	NY
Adena Regional Medical Center	Chillicothe	OH
Cleveland Clinic	Cleveland	OH
Fairfield Medical Center	Lancaster	OH
Lima Memorial Health System	Lima	OH
Marietta Memorial Hospital	Marietta	OH
Mercy Fairfield Hospital	Fairfield	OH
Mercy Health Sylvania Medical Center	Toledo	OH
Mercy Health Youngstown	Youngstown	OH
Mercy Health-Anderson	Cincinnati	OH
Mercy Health-Clermont	Batavia	OH
Mercy Health--Defiance Clinic	Defiance	OH
Mercy Health--St. Anne Hospital	Toledo	OH
Mercy Health--St. Charles Hospital	Oregon	OH
Mercy Health--St. Vincent Medical Center	Toledo	OH
Mercy Health--Tiffin Hospital	Tiffin	OH
Mercy Health--Willard Hospital	Willard	OH
The Jewish Hospital	Cincinnati	OH
OhioHealth Doctors Hospital	Columbus	OH
OhioHealth Grady Memorial Hospital	Delaware	OH
OhioHealth Grant Medical Center	Columbus	OH
OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital	Mansfield	OH
OhioHealth Marion General Hospital	Marion	OH
OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital	Athens	OH
OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital (at Bing Cancer Center)	Columbus	OH
OhioHealth Westerville Medical Campus	Westerville	OH
Ohio State University, The James Comprehensive Cancer Center	Columbus	OH

University Hospital East	Columbus	OH
East Ohio Regional Hospital	Martins Ferry	OH
Southern Ohio Medical Center	Portsmouth	OH
Summa Health System	Akron	OH
The University of Toledo Medical Center	Toledo	OH
The Christ Hospital Health Network	Cincinnati	OH
UC Health Daniel Drake Center for Post-Acute Care	Cincinnati	OH
UC Health Outpatient Imaging Center	Cincinnati	OH
UC Health Outpatient Imaging Center	West Chester	OH
UC Health University of Cincinnati Medical Center	Cincinnati	OH
University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center	Beachwood	OH
University Hospitals Bedford Medical Center	Bedford	OH
University Hospitals Chagrin Health Center	Beachwood	OH
University Hospitals Concord Health Center	Painesville	OH
University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center	Chardon	OH
University Hospitals Geneva Medical Center	Geneva	OH
University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center	Cleveland	OH
University Hospitals Westlake Health Center	Westlake	OH
University Hospitals Twinsburg Health Center	Twinsburg	OH
University Hospitals Avon Health Center	Avon	OH
University Hospitals Amherst Health Center	Amherst	OH
University Hospitals Conneaut Medical Center	Conneaut	OH
University Hospitals Kent Health Center	Kent	OH
University Hospitals Medina Health Center	Medina	OH
University Hospitals Mentor Health Center	Mentor	OH
University Hospitals Parma Medical Center	Parma	OH
University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center	Richmond Heights	OH
University Hospitals Fairlawn Health Center	Akron	OH
University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center	Elyria	OH
University Hospitals Portage Medical Center	Ravenna	OH
University Hospitals St. John Medical Center	Westlake	OH
Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin	Milwaukee	WI
ProHealth Waukesha Memorial Hospital	Waukesha	WI

