



Convening leading members of Texas' oncology community to discuss precision medicine and identify possible policy solutions to four key barriers to improve patient outcomes.



**PARTICIPANTS: COMMUNITY THOUGHT LEADERS**

12 attendees, including multiple cancer advocacy organizations, oncologists, legislators, researchers, patient advocates, biotechnology experts and science officers and in close partnership with Dr. Debra Patt of Texas Oncology.



**CLINICAL**

**BARRIER:** Precision medicines are quickly being approved, challenging health professionals and patients to stay abreast of new treatments and testing requirements to improve treatment decisions.

**POLICY SOLUTION:**

- > Encourage reimbursement for patient and nurse navigators
- > Support health literacy tools for patients
- > Streamline time-consuming paperwork required to enroll patients in valuable clinical trials
- > Facilitate greater education among HCPs (including PCPs) to help keep pace with rapidly evolving science
- > Reduce the amount of time needed for patients to receive access to the latest tests and treatments
- > Facilitate greater education and collaboration among payors and practitioners to educate on evolving science and reimbursement needs



**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**BARRIER:** Legacy informatics systems used by most hospitals are unable to manage the breadth and complexity of patient data, sometimes challenging clinicians to incorporate them into clinical practice.

**POLICY SOLUTION:**

- > Develop information systems tools to ensure greater accuracy around test orders tied to molecular tumor boards
- > Coordinate with community centers (schools, libraries) to house educational resources
- > Explore investments in AI to strengthen existing healthcare infrastructure
- > Help develop discoverable database registry to ensure real-time access to patient data mindful of privacy restrictions
- > Work to create tele-health solutions to improve access in remote areas
- > Strengthen the cancer registry so that it has drivers of precision medicine compatible with EMRs (HL7)
- > Increase investment in core facilities and rural health centers and ensure access to clinical trials



**HCP COLLABORATION**

**BARRIER:** Key decisions regarding sequencing often don't involve the entire treatment team. Not involving the entire treatment team can hinder uptake of novel technologies.

**POLICY SOLUTION:**

- > Ensure pathologists are working more closely with HCPs to ensure the right tests are ordered via comprehensive treatment boards
- > Establish registries to collect and analyze data to identify trends in precision medicine treatment
- > Give HCPs access to real-time and historical results to avoid repeat biopsies, costs and delays
- > Promote greater access to labs and hospitals where testing can occur especially in rural areas and underserved urban areas
- > Secure greater investment in CPRIT re: biomarker testing
- > Encourage multi-disciplinary treatment planning as standard of care



**REIMBURSEMENT**

**BARRIER:** High standards for demonstrating clinical and economic utility post coverage challenges for novel diagnostics and implementing consistent coverage and payment for testing.

**POLICY SOLUTION:**

- > Educate payors on the economic value of paying for tests and screens and clinician-recommended treatments
- > Allow reimbursement for patient navigators to help realize the benefits of precision medicine
- > Eliminate test redundancy by improving data collection and linking tests
- > Allow for timely and streamlined prior authorization
- > Ensure formulary restrictions are appropriate to allow access to new and novel therapies
- > Include clinical trials as part of reimbursable standard of care

**A LOOK  
AHEAD**

Foster conversation among attendees

Collaborate with legislators

Build support with medical oncology

Identify ways to support policy efforts

Precision Medicine Roundtables are a part of AstraZeneca's YOUR Cancer initiative, which convenes the oncology community to eliminate cancer as a cause of death.

**Learn more at [www.YourCancer.org](http://www.YourCancer.org).**