

Washington, DC (December 16, 2020) –LUNGevity Foundation has released the following statement expressing concern about the Most Favored Nation Policy:

LUNGevity Foundation is committed to ensuring access to optimal care for ALL people diagnosed with lung cancer. This includes strategically working toward more affordable healthcare while continuing to foster innovation. It is our belief that the Trump Administration’s interim final rule, the Most Favored Nation Policy, which fundamentally changes how Medicare pays for certain prescription drugs, will actually cause more harm than benefit for patients. Policies such as the Most Favored Nations Policy that restrict access to providers or treatments of choice are not acceptable tradeoffs for reduced costs of drugs.

LUNGevity requests that the current and future administrations work with all stakeholders to come up with a more feasible solution to address the total cost of care while also lowering the patient’s cost sharing responsibilities, without affecting access to innovative and lifesaving therapies.

In the United States, Medicare patients currently have uniform access to new, innovative, and effective therapies, regardless of healthcare provider or where they are located. As proposed, the Most Favored Nations Policy may cause some providers to stop offering care to Medicare patients, or it may lead to providers not prescribing certain therapies, resulting in patients receiving suboptimal care.

While we acknowledge that one of the elements that contributes to the total cost of care is the price of lifesaving drugs and therapies, this is not the only piece of the system that should be examined and improved upon when developing proposals to reduce the financial burden that cancer patients endure when diagnosed with cancer.

LUNGevity will continue to work with stakeholders to raise awareness about the detrimental effects the final Most Favored Nations Policy will have on the people whom we are trying to protect and serve.

About LUNGevity Foundation:

LUNGevity’s mission is to improve outcomes for people diagnosed with lung cancer. Our goals are three-fold: (1) to accelerate research to patients that is meaningful to them; (2) to empower patients to be active participants in their care and care decisions; and (3) to help remove barriers to access to high quality care. We have the largest lung cancer survivor network in the country and actively engage with them to identify, understand, and address unmet patient needs. We also have a world class Scientific Advisory Board that guides the programs and initiatives of the organization. Additionally, we collaborate with other lung cancer patient advocacy groups and organizations, such as the American Lung Association and CHEST, who serve the lung cancer community. For more information, visit www.lungevity.org.