Predicted Impacts:
Cancer Drug Costs

Despite expanded coverage and access to services resulting from enactment of the ACA, including the removal of pre-existing condition and lifetime cap limitations, many challenges remain for patients accessing comprehensive cancer care.

Cancer treatment decisions will be based on the individual patient’s clinical and biological profile, input from the patient regarding his or her goals of therapy, and full disclosure of, and agreement, on the cost implications.

The cost of cancer drugs and cancer care will be managed such that physicians can improve outcomes for patients through greater accessibility and affordability of drugs while still allowing continued pharmaceutical innovation.

National evidence-based guidelines will be developed and adopted that critically examine quality-of-life and mortality data to assess benefits in terms of not only risks but also cost, and that provide transparency on the most cost-effective treatment options. This approach will highlight the cost utility of a proposed treatment and help patients and physicians make better informed decisions.