

Cancer Safety Net

This program is available to:

Doctors treating patients who had their cancer diagnosed prior to a reform-related disenrollment and who were either actively receiving chemo and/or radiation at the time of disenrollment or had a plan of care developed prior to a reform-related disenrollment but had not yet started treatment. The patient must **not** be enrolled in Medicare Part A and B or eligible for TennCare in an open Medicaid category.

How it works:

A cancer doctor who is willing to continue to provide chemo and/or radiation treatments to a patient meeting the criteria outlined above contacts the Department of Health and provides some basic information that enables the Department to determine the eligibility of the patient. The doctor then receives a \$1500 one time payment to help defray the costs of completing the current course of treatment. This is voluntary on the doctor's part. We can't guarantee every patient that their doctor will participate in this program and continue their therapy. It is a component of the Safety Net that is designed to help encourage doctors to provide continuity of care during this difficult time. The program does not provide any sort of retail pharmacy benefit. The payment can be made a maximum of 2 times on behalf of any one patient, once to a doctor providing chemotherapy and once to a doctor providing radiation therapy.

This program is NOT designed to provide assistance to:

1. People who are still on TennCare but have lost their retail pharmacy benefit – these enrollees still have coverage for chemo and radiation delivered in a doctor's office or hospital
2. People who are losing their TennCare coverage for some reason other than the reform-related disenrollments
3. People who are eligible for TennCare in another open Medicaid category (i.e. Breast and Cervical Cancer) – patients with breast and cervical cancer who are below 250% of the federal poverty level should be eligible for Medicaid
4. People with Part A and B Medicare – Medicare will cover their chemo and radiation delivered in a doctor's office or hospital
5. People who are diagnosed with cancer after they are disenrolled from TennCare
6. People who have received a disenrollment notice, but who are receiving continuation of benefits due to an appeal