Steven Phurrough, M.D., M.P.A.
Director, Coverage and Analysis Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Blvd., Mail Stop C1-09-06
Baltimore, MD. 21244

Re: NOPR RECONSIDERATION

May 1, 2008

Dear Dr. Phurrough and Committee Members,

I strongly support the committee's reconsideration of the coverage of PET (Positron Emission Tomography) scanning for diagnosing, staging, restaging, and treatment planning, for all oncologic indications.

The NOPR study has more than proven the benefit of the the PET scan in all cancers. It allows the treating physicians the knowledge to make informed decisions concerning the best course of treatment for their patient's particular diagnosis. This is proven by the study results that treatment plans are changed 36.5% of the time, simply by adding a PET scan to the equation.

The value of the information that the PET scan results adds to the direction of the patients care can not be over-emphasized, and can mean the difference between quality of life and even life itself, in those patients whose disease may have undiagnosed spread of their disease.

On behalf of my patients and all cancer patients, I respectfully ask that the committee approve PET coverage for all Medicare and Medicaid cancer patients.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

ZIAD TANNOUS, M.D.
Print Name

Signature

5/6/08
Date