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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/11/10

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Expansion Of Cancer Clinical Trials SJM 19

ANALYST Wilson

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
Health Policy Commission (HPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 19 requests the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Bureau of the DOH and the New Mexico Cancer Care Alliance to convene a working group that is responsible for identifying gaps in current patient access to cancer clinical trials, identifying and investigating methods to expand cancer clinical trials to areas of the State where clinical trials are not available, and identifying potential funding sources for expansion of services.

The working group is required to present its recommendations to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee by October of 2010.

The working group is composed of representatives from the following entities:

- The Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Bureau of DOH;
- The Medical Division of the New Mexico Human Services Department;
- The New Mexico Cancer Care Alliance;
- The Rural Issues Workgroup of the University of New Mexico Cancer Center; and
- The New Mexico Cancer Council.

The working group also includes:

- A representative from an insurance health plan;
- At least three medical oncologists that participate in clinical trials;
- A rural practitioner; and
- A primary care physician.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SJM19 indicates that in 2008, approximately 8,260 new cancer cases were diagnosed in New Mexico. More than 3,310 New Mexicans die of cancer each year. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States.

This memorial notes that all aspects of cancer treatment should be available to all New Mexicans. New Mexico patients, for whom standard cancer treatments are no longer effective, must be able to access the best cancer therapies offered through clinical research. SJM19 indicates that clinical trial systems allowing patients to remain in their homes and receive care from a familiar physician is cost-effective and easier for the patient.

Cancer clinical trials are research studies designed to translate scientific research results into better ways to prevent, diagnose, or treat cancer. Cancer clinical treatment trials provide access to either the best available standard treatment or a promising new treatment for patients with cancer. Advances in cancer care and the development of cancer therapeutics depend largely upon an effective clinical trial process. For eligible patients, the experimental procedures available only through cancer treatment clinical trials may increase survival or improve quality of life compared to standard treatment.

Only about three to five percent of adult cancer patients participate in clinical treatment trials. Certain populations, such as those that are low income, elderly, racial/ethnic minorities, or those who live in rural areas have the smallest percentage of clinical trial participants.

Possible risks of participating in clinical treatment trials include the following: new drugs or procedures under study are not always better than the standard care to which they are being compared, experimental treatments may have side effects or risks that doctors do not expect or that are worse than those resulting from standard care, and participants may be required to make more visits to the doctor than they would if they were not in the clinical trial.

SJM19 could provide an opportunity for multiple cancer control partners in New Mexico to evaluate the benefits, risks, barriers, and potential ways to increase participation in cancer clinical trials to New Mexicans who currently have limited access to such opportunities within our state.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Agencies affected by this memorial can handle the provisions of this bill with existing staff as part of ongoing responsibilities.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

DOH suggests the following changes:

On page 2, line 22, before “university” insert “New Mexico Cancer Council,”.

On page 2, lines 22 and 23, after “center” delete “and the New Mexico Cancer Council”.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the National Cancer Institute, clinical trials are research studies that test how well new medical approaches work in people. Each study answers scientific questions and tries to find better ways to prevent, screen for, diagnose, or treat a disease. People who take part in cancer clinical trials have an opportunity to contribute to knowledge of, and progress against, cancer. They also receive up-to-date care from experts.

There are several types of clinical trials:

- Prevention trials test new approaches, such as medications, vitamins, or other supplements, that doctors believe may lower the risk of developing a certain type of cancer. Most prevention trials are conducted with healthy people who have not had cancer. Some trials are conducted with people who have had cancer and want to prevent recurrence of cancer, or reduce the chance of developing a new type of cancer.
- Screening trials study ways to detect cancer earlier. They are often conducted to determine whether finding cancer before it causes symptoms decreases the chance of dying from the disease. These trials involve people who do not have any symptoms of cancer.
- Diagnostic trials study tests or procedures that could be used to identify cancer more accurately. Diagnostic trials usually include people who have signs or symptoms of cancer.
- Treatment trials are conducted with people who have cancer. They are designed to answer specific questions about, and evaluate the effectiveness of, a new treatment or a new way of using a standard treatment. These trials test many types of treatments, such as new drugs, vaccines, new approaches to surgery or radiation therapy, or new combinations of treatments.
- Quality-of-life (also called supportive care) trials explore ways to improve the comfort and quality of life of cancer patients and cancer survivors. These trials may study ways to help people who are experiencing nausea, vomiting, sleep disorders, depression, or other effects from cancer or its treatment.
- Genetics studies are sometimes part of another cancer clinical trial. The genetic component of the trial may focus on how genetics can affect detection, diagnosis, or response to cancer treatment.

The National Cancer Institute describes the benefits and possible risks associated with participation in clinical trials:

Benefits include:

- Participants have access to promising new approaches that are often not available outside the clinical trial setting.
- The approach being studied may be more effective than the standard approach.
- Participants receive regular and careful medical attention from a research team that includes doctors and other health professionals.
- Participants may be the first to benefit from the new method under study.
- Results from the study may help others in the future.

Possible Risks include:

- New drugs or procedures under study are not always better than the standard care to which they are being compared.
- New treatments may have side effects or risks that doctors do not expect or that are worse than those resulting from standard care.
- Participants in randomized trials will not be able to choose the approach they receive.
- Health insurance and managed care providers may not cover all patient care costs in a study.
- Participants may be required to make more visits to the doctor than they would if they were not in the clinical trial.

DW/mt