

EUROPEAN  
CANCER  
PATIENT  
COALITION

# Challenges for access to biomarkers

## *Patient Advocate's Perspective*

*CDDF Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Biomarkers & Patients' Access to Personalized Oncology Drugs in Europe  
Brussels-September 24-25, 2018*

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**Kathi Apostolidis - ECPC Vice-President**

# Barriers to Biomarker testing & Personalized Medicine

- **Patients encounter difficulty in finding information**
    - Patients rely on their doctor for information
    - Importance of health literacy
    - Scarce peer to peer information
  - **Physicians should also offer printed lay information**
    - Patients are doomed to forget 60% of what they hear during medical appointment
  - **Patients cannot decide on treatment at first appointment**
    - Need for a second appointment to discuss results of biomarker testing
    - Patients and their family need time to digest new information
-



European Alliance for  
Personalised Medicine

# PATIENT AWARENESS ON BIOMARKERS ACROSS EUROPE

1

Do you know  
that biomarkers can help doctors  
find the best treatment for you?

best score in the knowledge  
related to biomarkers

aware of the concept  
but under a different name

poor knowledge



70%

of the respondents  
to ECPC survey  
are aware of the existence  
of biomarkers.

**60%** of the respondents to ECPC survey have **NOT** been proposed a biomarker testing by their oncologist.



**2** Have you been offered a biomarker test by your oncologist/physician?

**3** How long did it take for you to get your biomarker test result?

**5 days** **30 days**

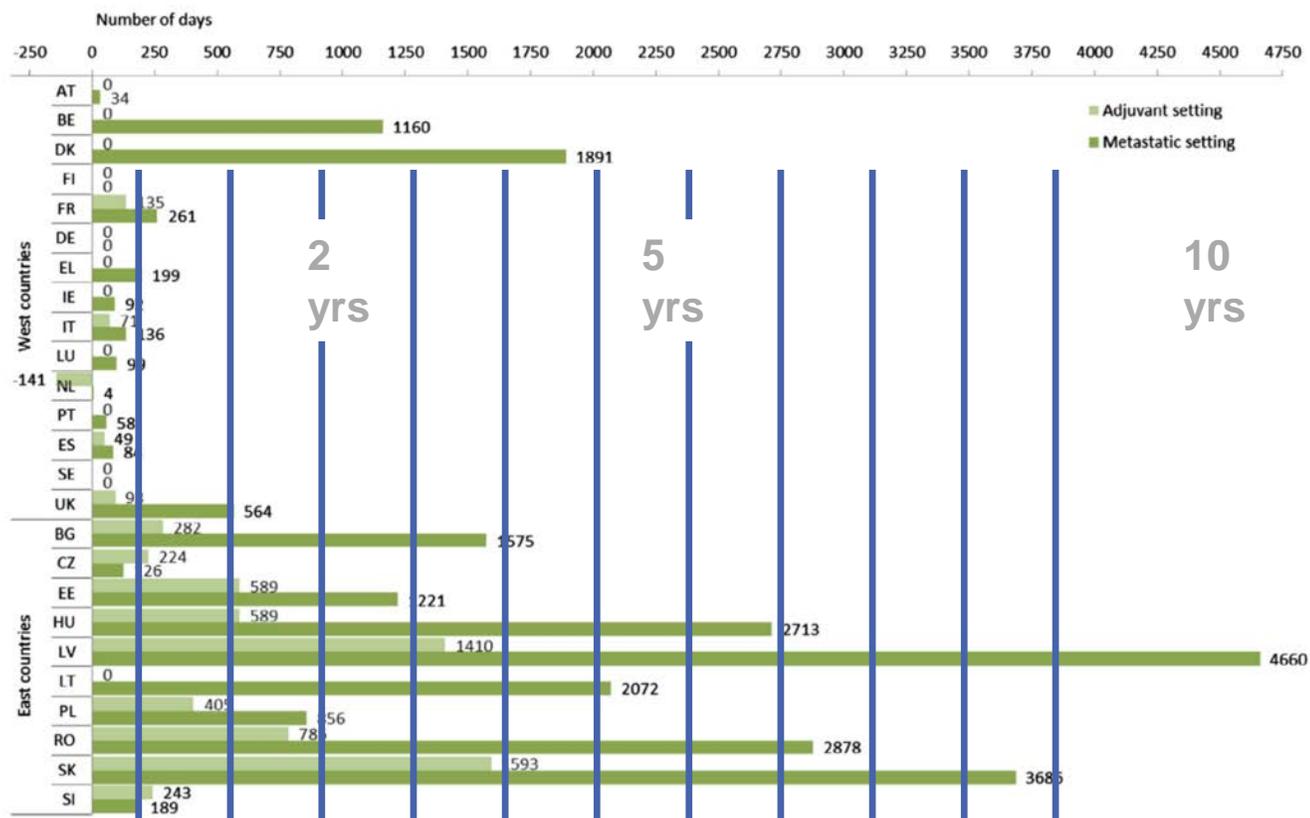
**4** Did your doctor explain to you the importance of biomarker tests?



**70%** of the respondents to ECPC survey said that the importance was **NOT** adequately explained.

**5** Where did you find information about biomarkers to educate yourself?





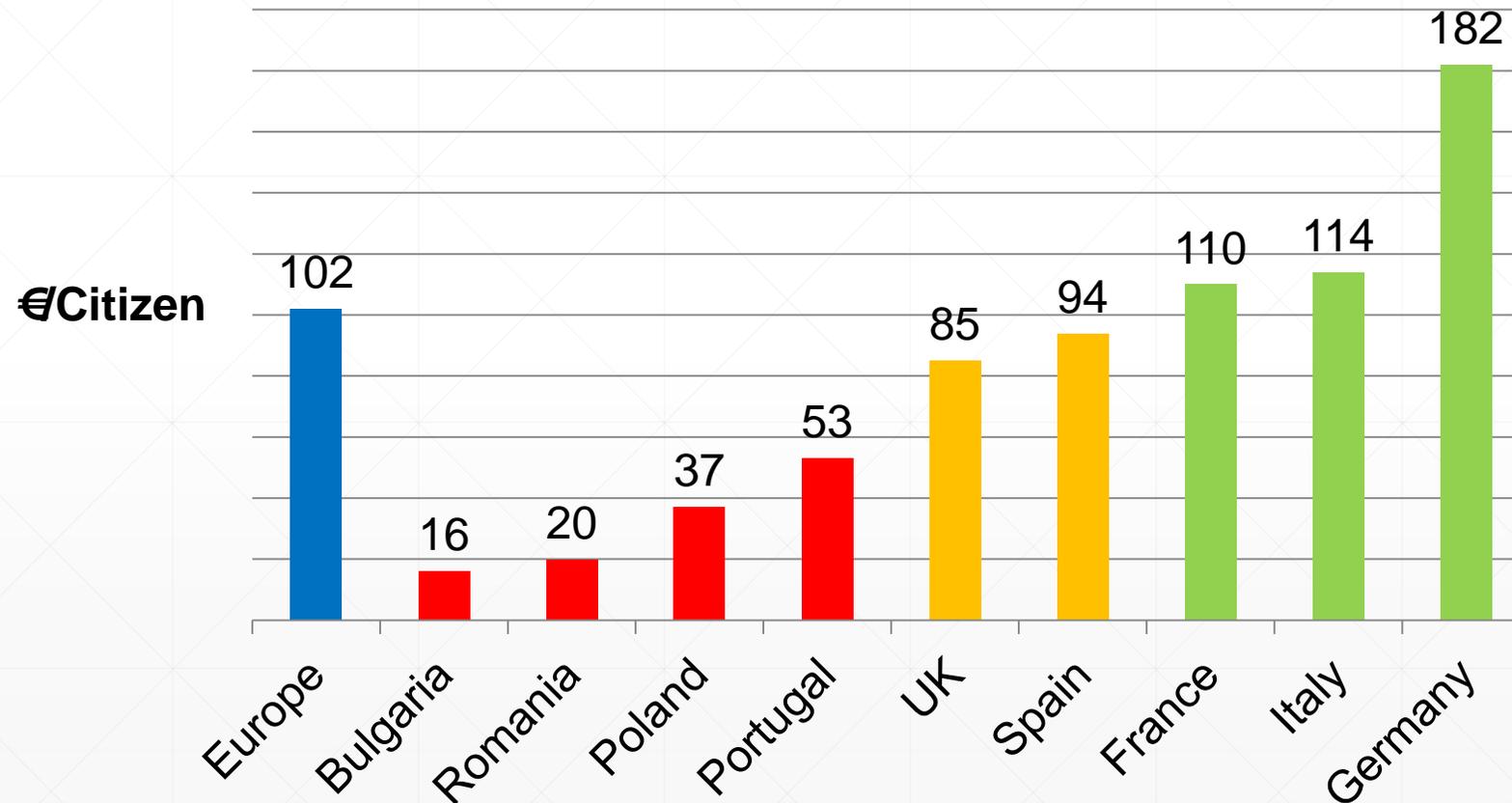
# Patients' question

Can we truly access innovative drugs?

Fig. 1. Time periods for trastuzumab approval/reimbursement in the adjuvant and metastatic settings across European Union (EU) countries.

# Inequalities in cancer care: an economic problem

Example: avg. cancer expenditures per citizen in the EU



Results from biomarker tests can take from 7 to 30 days, depending on the country



BELGIUM



GREECE



PORTUGAL



FRANCE



ITALY



ROMANIA



GERMANY

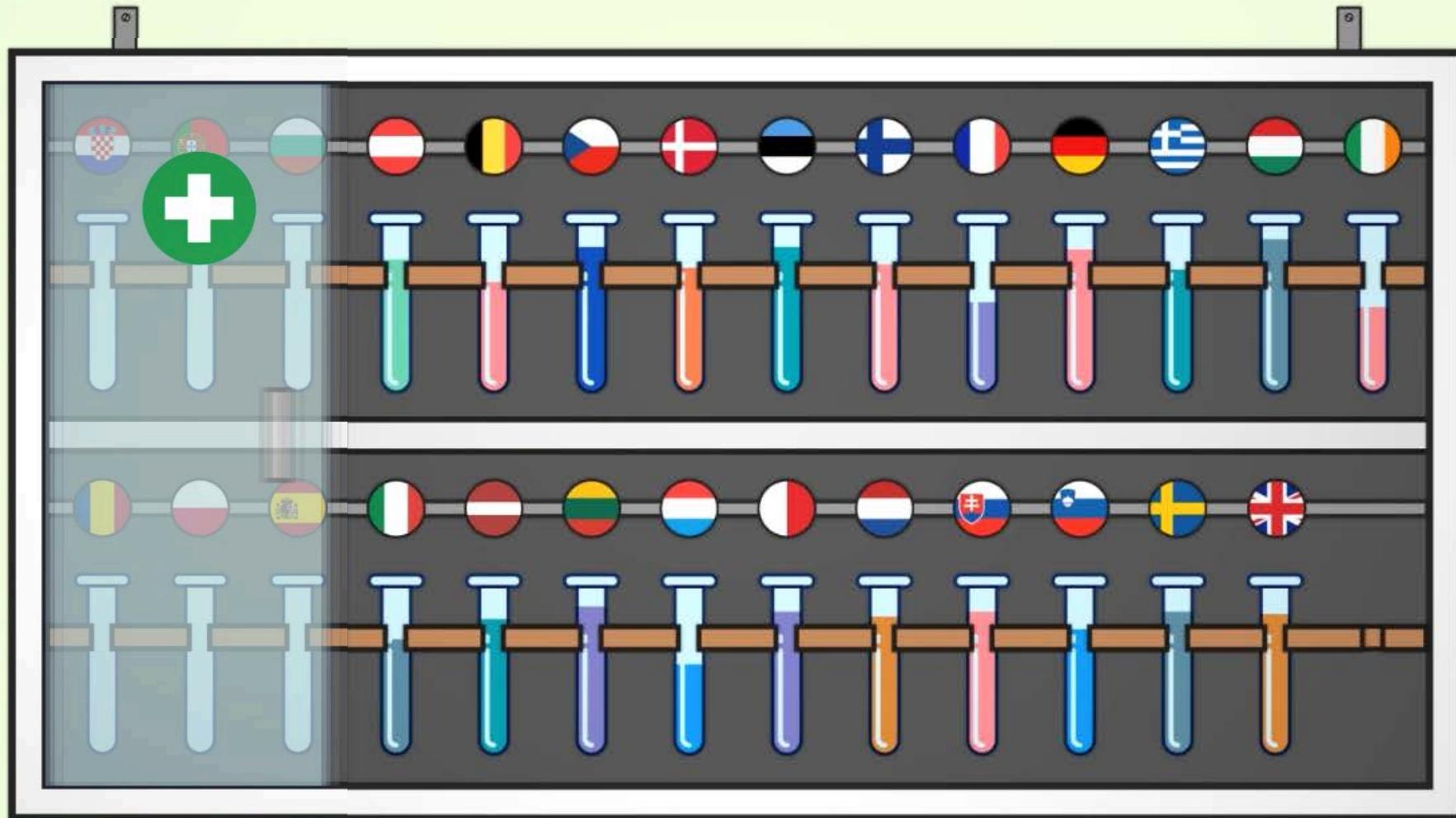


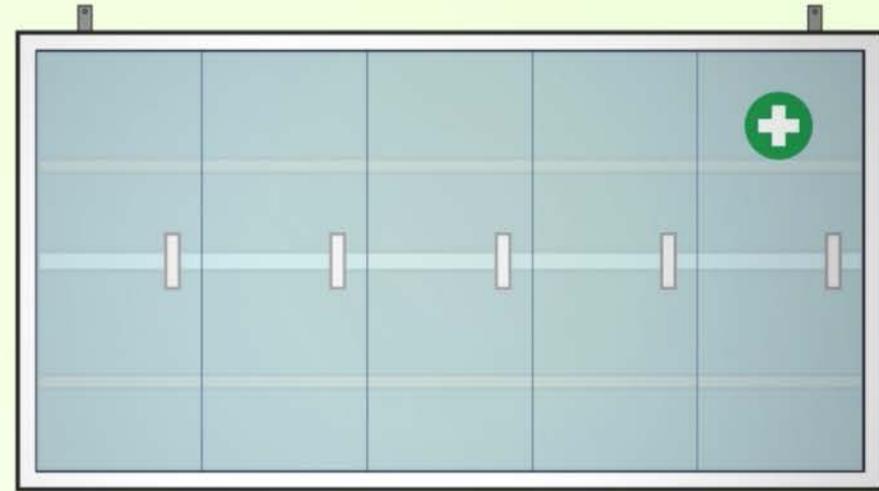
POLAND



SPAIN

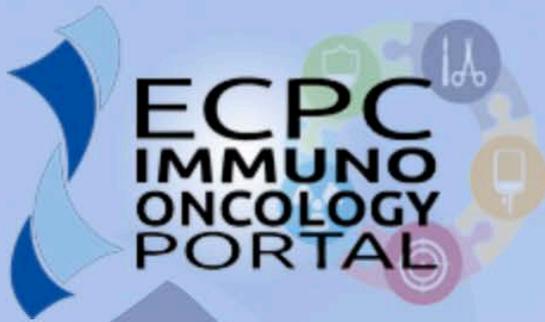
# REIMBURSEMENT OF RAS BIOMARKER TESTING





23%

Only 23% of doctors felt that their patients were always fully informed about biomarkers.



## The Immuno Oncology Portal (IOP)

### Module 1:

#### Cancer Immunotherapies

This is an introductory module which explains how the immune system can be helpful to fight cancer and what are the different types of cancer immunotherapies.

### Module 2:

#### Immuno-Oncology Treatments

This module analyses in depth what immuno-oncology is, how it works and what are the pros and cons for cancer patients.

# GIVING PATIENTS A VOICE IN DRUG DEVELOPMENT

[www.imi-prefer.eu](http://www.imi-prefer.eu)

**prefer.**  
PATIENT PREFERENCES

This research is supported by the EU/EFPIA Innovative Medicines Initiative [2] Joint Undertaking PREFER grant n° 115966.



innovative  
medicines  
initiative



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# Biomarkers

- **Participants:** Patients, policy-makers, researchers and industry
- **Scope:** Debate on the importance of biomarkers for people with cancer and the necessary actions to make personalized medicine in cancer a reality across Europe.
- **Conclusions:** More progress needed towards a **harmonised and more efficient regulatory framework for biomarkers. Need for increased access and decreased waiting times** for high-quality biomarker testing to make personalised healthcare more of a reality.

## *Cancer Biomarkers in the Era of Personalised Medicines*



TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2017

15:00 – 17:00

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT | ROOM A1E-1

Hosted by MEP Marlene Mizzi (S&D, Malta)



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# Personalised Medicine

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Cancer Biomarkers in the Era of Personalised Medicines

# BIOMARKERS



## WHAT IS THE STATE OF CANCER BIOMARKERS IN EUROPE

Only 23% of European doctors felt that their patients were always fully informed about biomarker testing.

4. Onkologie, 2018 Mar;21(3): 292-300

## CANCER BIOMARKERS IN THE ERA OF PERSONALISED MEDICINES

Compared to 2012, cancer mortality rates have decreased both for men and women!

-8,20% -3,60%

1. Ann Oncol (2017) 28 (5): 1117-1123

However, the number of people dying from cancer has increased by 3% since 2012, due to population growth and ageing. Approximately 1.4 million people in the European Union will die from cancer this year.

2. Ann Oncol (2017) 28 (5): 1117-1123

We need better ways to ensure sustainable healthcare systems, identify the people who may benefit from effective cancer treatment, and avoid treatment-related toxicity.

One of the ways this can be accomplished is with personalised medicine, and cancer biomarkers. Personalised cancer medicine is a targeted approach to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer based on an individual's specific profile.

LIVING PERSONS	511,434,800
DEATHS	4,945,366
DEATHS BY CANCER	1,306,561

**VALID BIOMARKERS**

- EGFR
- HER-2/NEU
- BRCA
- KRAS
- CD20

**VALID TREATMENT**

**VALID BIOMARKERS**

- EGFR
- KRAS
- CD20
- PD-L1
- PDGF

# ECPC Personalised Medicine Awareness Month

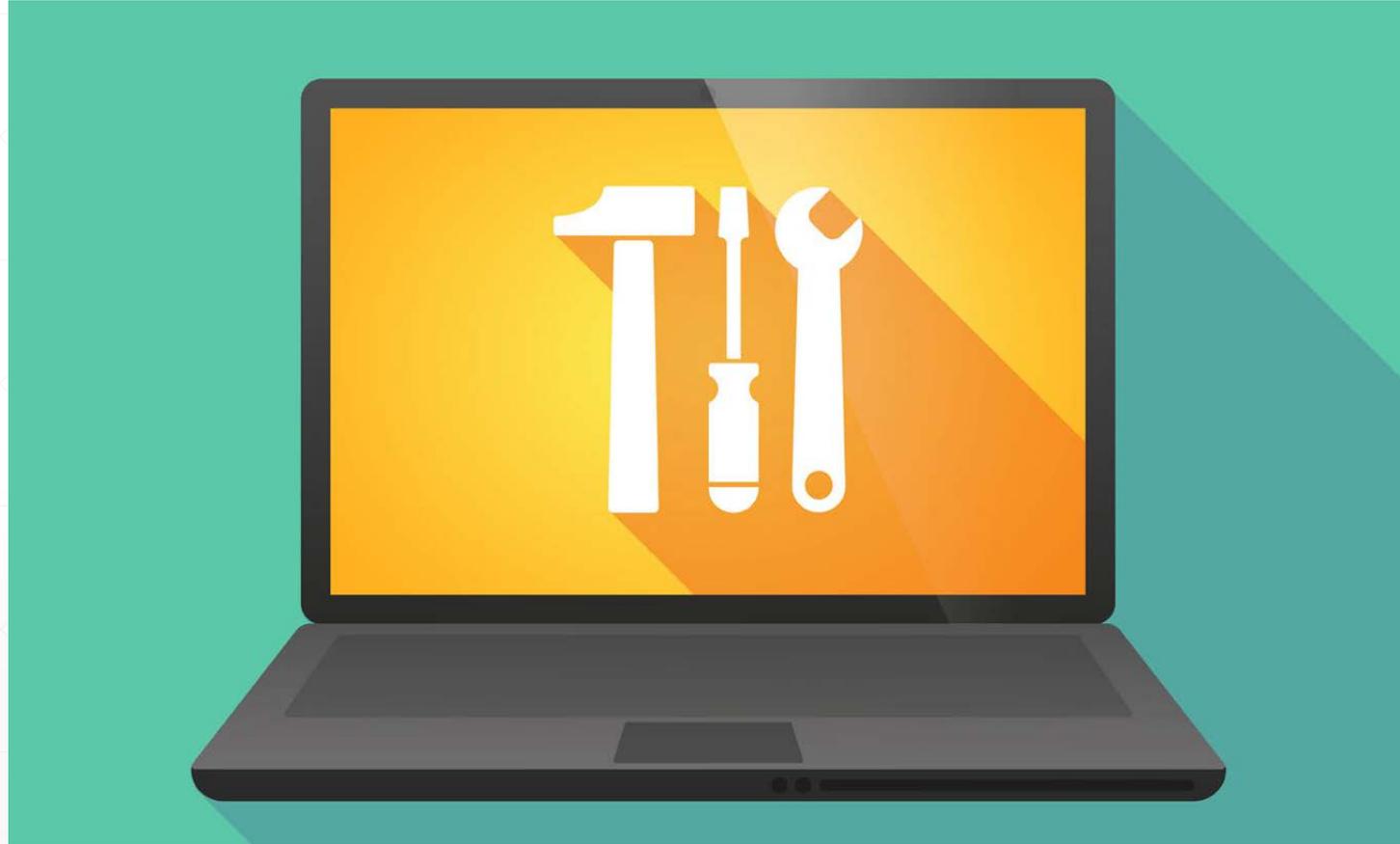


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AN INITIATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN CANCER PATIENT COALITION

AUDIENCE	MESSAGE	DESIRED BEHAVIOUR
<p>Patients – via Patient Groups (Awareness on existence)</p>	<p>Molecular testing can be used to help you and your healthcare team make decisions about your treatment and follow-up.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Consider testing (despite current access barriers)</li> <li>» Support awareness campaign</li> </ul>
<p>Regulators/Policy makers (Awareness on importance)</p>	<p>Molecular testing improves the sustainability of healthcare systems by ensuring the right people get the right treatment at the right time. It can help to reduce the risk of people receiving ineffective cancer treatment for their condition. On an individual level, this may prevent unnecessary side effects and facilitate better treatment decisions. For healthcare systems at a national level, this translates to cost benefits through a more effective use of resources, fewer tests or lines of therapy and fewer hospital days for people with cancer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Open debate</li> <li>» Revise framework</li> </ul>
<p>Doctors (Awareness on patient need)</p>	<p>Your patients need to be aware of molecular testing and you need to be informed about whether it is suitable for individual patients and if it is currently reimbursed and integrated into treatment pathways in your country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Better Inform patients</li> </ul>

# November: Personalised Medicine Month



Digital toolkit for ECPC Members

# Social media calendar for Twitter and Facebook



# Thank you

[www.ecpc.org/edu/personalisedmedicine](http://www.ecpc.org/edu/personalisedmedicine)



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