



# BIOMARKER TESTING COVERAGE

## HB180 | 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Biomarker testing allows physicians to analyze a patient's tissues or blood to find specific markers indicating normal biological processes, diseases, or responses to medications in order to help determine the best treatment. In 2023, the Kentucky General Assembly passed HB180, which requires health insurance plans to cover biomarker testing when ordered by a qualified healthcare provider, following certain medical and scientific evidence criteria. The new law took effect Jan. 1, 2024.

## HIGHLIGHTS



Coverage is not meant for routine screening but rather for diagnosis, treatment, management, or monitoring of specific diseases.



The law applies to both private health insurance plans and Medicaid beneficiaries, with compliance required from the Department for Medicaid Services and managed care organizations.



While most current applications of biomarker testing are in oncology and autoimmune disease, there is research underway to benefit patients with other conditions including heart disease, neurological conditions like Alzheimer's disease, infectious disease and respiratory illness.

## BIOMARKER TESTING & HEALTH EQUITY

Despite its potential, there are disparities in Kentucky's access to biomarker testing, particularly affecting older individuals, Black communities, and those with limited insurance coverage. This inequality is evident in lower testing rates in community settings compared to academic medical centers. The consequences include hindered health equity, reduced quality of life, and increased disparities in cancer outcomes based on factors like race, ethnicity, income, and geography. The passage of HB180 hopes to improve these outcomes.



**HB180 is one of many KMA priorities that have been signed into law, thanks to the advocacy of KMA members. For more information on this and other legislative successes, visit [kyma.org/advocacy](https://kyma.org/advocacy).**

