



**Case Management Society of America**

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September 14, 2010

Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, M.D.  
Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Dr. Hamburg:

On behalf of Case Management Society of America (CMSA), we implore the Food and Drug administration (FDA) to give due consideration to the issue of patient and provider choice as it considers elimination of the indication for use of bevacizumab in the treatment of patients with metastatic HER2-negative breast cancer.

Metastatic breast cancer is an incurable disease that takes the lives of approximately 40,000 women in the United States each year. Based on recent studies, half of the women diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer will die within approximately two years and only 23% will live for five years. The decision to remove the indication for this use of bevacizumab effectively eliminates one of the few remaining available treatment options for patients in this dire situation. CMSA believes that the risk-benefit of using bevacizumab should be weighed by the patient and their healthcare provider, not through an oversight committee.

CMSA is the leading membership association providing professional collaboration across the healthcare continuum to advocate for patients' wellbeing and improved health outcomes by fostering case management growth and development, impacting health care policy, and providing evidence-based tools and resources. We represent over 11,000 healthcare professionals helping patients understand their current health status, what they can do about it and why those treatments are important. In this way, care managers are catalysts by guiding patients and providing cohesion to other professionals in the health care delivery team, enabling their clients to achieve goals more effectively and efficiently. Our patients with metastatic breast cancer must continue to have access to as many treatment options as possible in fighting this deadly disease.

As the FDA considers the indications for approved use of bevacizumab, please remain mindful that these statistics represent human beings. Revoking bevacizumab's approval eliminates one of the few hopes that these patients have to extend their lives while awaiting a cure. Please leave the process of decision-making regarding treatment choice in the hands of the patient and their physician.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Treiger, RN-C, MA, CCM, CCP  
President CMSA

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Executive Director, CMSA

cc: Senator Blanche Lincoln; Senator Mark Pryor; Representative Vic Snyder AR- 2<sup>ND</sup>