



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 7, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 1137 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Required Coverage for Calcium Score Testing

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health, supports House Bill (HB) 1137. Studies show that calcium score testing is a successful tool for detecting disease, particularly for individuals with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or a family history of coronary disease.¹

Calcium scoring is a covered service for all participants under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. Prior authorization is not required for this service when covered on a fee-for-service basis. In CY 2023, 81,924 Medicaid participants had at least three of the chronic conditions included in HB 1137 list of risk factors, while 206,820 participants had two or more of the participants with two or more conditions, 432 participants received a calcium scoring test (Cardiac Computed Tomography (CCT)).

Despite these findings, some insurers, non profit health service plans, health maintenance organizations, and managed care organizations don't currently provide coverage for calcium score testing for individuals with at least three of the above-enumerated risk factors. This legislation would mandate that coverage, and so, we request a favorable vote.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5642780/>