



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 11, 2025

Dear Health & Government Operations Committee Members,

I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration in hearing HB1187, a crucial step toward improving cancer care in Maryland. The testimonies and data presented underscored the urgent need for this legislation. I have been actively gathering the additional data you requested at the hearing, which is included below.

Chemotherapy-induced hair loss has impacts far beyond appearance—it can lead to social isolation, loss of privacy regarding a patient’s diagnosis, and diminished self-esteem. Alarming, up to 10% of patients consider delaying, altering, or even forgoing life-saving treatments due to the fear of hair loss (Kadokia et al., 2014). This statistic highlights the significant emotional and psychological toll of chemotherapy.

Unfortunately, the cost of scalp cooling systems—ranging from \$1,200 to \$2,500—creates a major barrier for many patients. This bill seeks to remove that financial obstacle, ensuring access to this *standard-of-care* treatment recommended by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN).

Currently, Maryland mandates insurance coverage of up to \$350 for doctor-prescribed wigs without requiring a deductible. However, wigs can cost up to \$2,000, and most patients would prefer the option to keep their own hair. While wigs can be helpful, they cannot replace the psychological comfort and sense of normalcy that come with maintaining one’s natural appearance. As mentioned during the hearing, many patients also find wigs hot and uncomfortable.

By supporting this effort, you are championing not just health equity but also patient dignity and choice. Ensuring access to scalp cooling therapy allows individuals to make the best decisions for their health and well-being during an already challenging time—physically, emotionally, and financially.

Thank you again for your commitment to improving healthcare in Maryland. Your support will make a profound difference in the lives of countless patients. Below, we have included the additional data you requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "LaToya Nkongolo".



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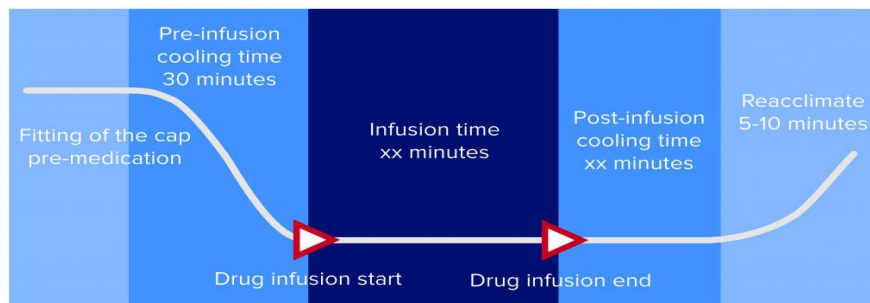
Delegate LaToya Nkongolo

Images of FDA Scalp Cooling Machines and Manual Cold Cap



Figure. The DigniCap Scalp Cooling System

Chart showing the time needed for cold capping on the infusion days



Note: Cold Capping times depend on infusion time

Sample Cold Capping Cost Chart using FDA approved Machine at a Facility

Personal Cap Kit	No Charge	
Treatment 1-4	\$300 Per treatment	
Treatment 5-6	\$200 Per treatment	
Treatment 7-12	\$100 Per treatment	

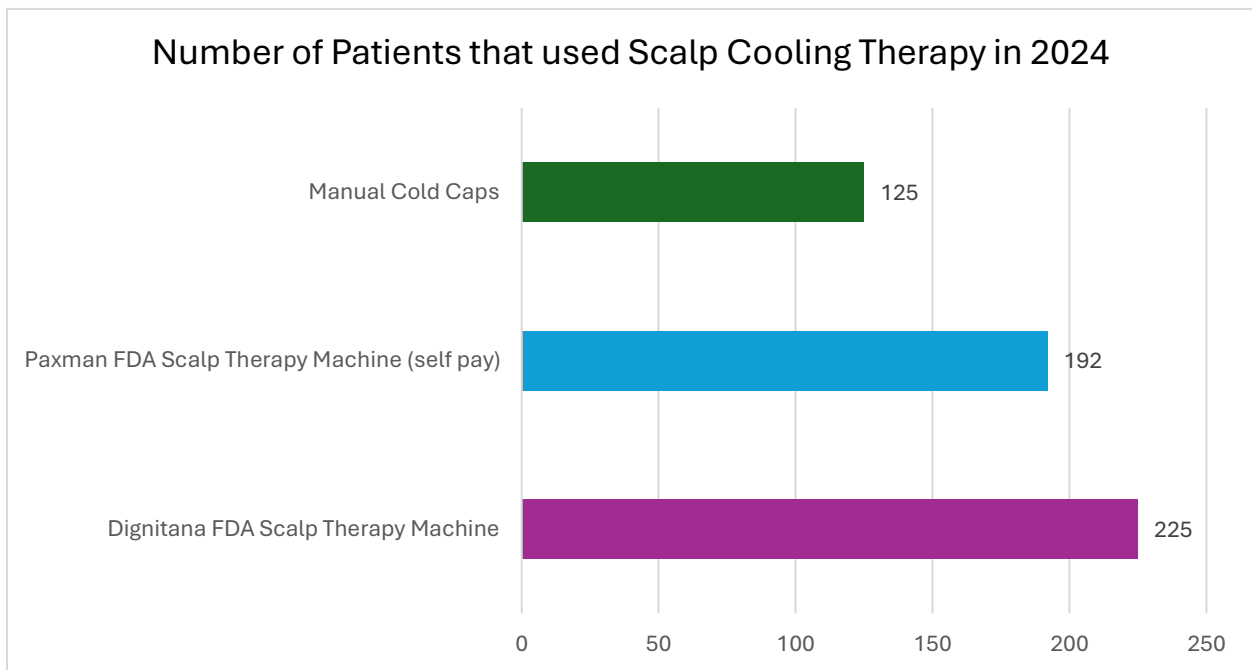
Pricing per patient is capped at: \$2200



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[Link to Bill Folder](#) from New York Legislation Bill S.2063A/A.38A on Scalp Cooling that passed December 2024



MD Facilities that offer Scalp Cooling	City	# of Eligible Patients in 2024
Mercy Medical Center	Baltimore	117
UMGCCC University of Maryland	Baltimore	543
Waiting on Data from 21 other facilities in MD		?

TOTAL ELIGIBLE PATIENTS in 2024 *	660
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* Based on patients being prescribed a chemotherapy regimen that included any of the following: Taxanes (e.g., Taxol/paclitaxel, Taxotere/docetaxel, Abraxane/nab-paclitaxel), Anthracyclines (e.g., Adriamycin/doxorubicin, Doxil/liposomal doxorubicin, Ellence/epirubicin), or Cytoxan (cyclophosphamide) all which are eligible for scalp cooling therapy.