



Men's Health Network  
P. O. Box 75972  
Washington, D.C. 20013  
202-543-MHN-1 (6461)  
Fax 202-543-2727

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## PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Alice Alecu  
Alice(at)menshealthnetwork(dot)org  
[202\) 543-6461 ext. 101](tel:2025436461)

### **MHN Participates in a Press Conference to Commend SSA on Major Change to Social Security Program to Help Prostate Cancer Patients**

(Washington, DC) – Men’s Health Network (MHN) expressed support for the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) announcement of the addition of Stage IV Prostate Cancer to the Compassionate Allowances Listing (CAL), yesterday morning in a press conference held in Baltimore, MD. Organized by Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, the press conference had in attendance Acting SSA Administrator Carolyn Colvin as well as other advocates from the Prostate Cancer Community.

For more information on the program, including a list of all Compassionate Allowances conditions, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances) .

**“Inclusion of hormone-refractory prostate cancer in the updated compassionate allowances list is a significant advance for patients,”** said Brandon Leonard, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Men’s Health Network. **“When people are battling difficult diseases which have already caused great burdens in their lives, the last things they should be dealing with are delays and unnecessary bureaucracy. This change ensures the process is expedited and patients can receive the benefits they deserve.”**

The Compassionate Allowances program identifies claims where the applicant’s disease or condition clearly meets Social Security’s statutory standard for disability. By incorporating cutting-edge technology, the agency can easily identify potential Compassionate Allowances and quickly make decisions. To date, almost 200,000 people with severe disabilities have been approved through this fast-track disability process.

Launched in 2008 with a list of 50 diseases and conditions, the Compassionate Allowances program is aimed at identifying medical diagnoses that clearly meet the statutory standard for disability. When individuals with those diagnoses apply for disability assistance, they receive fast-track review so that they are notified of the final decision within days.

**“We want to thank Congressman Cummings for his leadership on this issue,”** said Leonard. **“This update to the compassionate allowances list matters for patients, and Congressman Cummings has long been a champion for those living with prostate cancer and their families.”**

*[Men's Health Network](#) (MHN) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to reach men, boys, and their families where they live, work, play, and pray with health prevention messages and tools, screening programs, educational materials, advocacy opportunities, and patient navigation. Learn more about MHN at [www.menshealthnetwork.org](http://www.menshealthnetwork.org) and follow us on Twitter @MensHlthNetwork and [facebook.com/menshealthnetwork](https://facebook.com/menshealthnetwork)*

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