



AMERICAN CLINICAL LABORATORY ASSOCIATION (ACLA)

The Power of Knowing, July 2024

Public Affairs: ACLA's "Power of Knowing" Campaign Highlights Biomarker Testing

ACLA's "[Power of Knowing](#)" value campaign highlights the foundational role clinical laboratories serve in improving health and health care. This month, the campaign focuses on how clinical labs are using biomarker testing to diagnose disease, enhance treatment efficacy, reduce adverse effects, and improve patient outcomes.

Exact Sciences' Dr. Jerry Machado, PhD, DABMGG, FCCMG breaks down how biomarker testing works in this [short video](#) featured on ACLA's *Power of Knowing* [landing page](#).

An infographic with a dark blue background and light blue text. It features a magnifying glass icon over a DNA double helix and a speech bubble. The ACLA logo and the hashtag #ThePowerOfKnowing are at the bottom.

To conduct biomarker testing, clinical laboratories use a patient sample (tissue, blood, or other body fluid) to check for abnormal changes in certain genes, proteins, or other molecules that could indicate the presence of a disease or condition.

Source: <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/biomarker-testing>

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Biomarkers can be classified into various categories, including:

- **Diagnostic Biomarkers** - used to identify disease
- **Prognostic Biomarkers** - predicting the course of a disease
- **Predictive Biomarkers** - indicating response to a specific treatment
- **Monitoring Biomarkers** - tracking disease progression or treatment effectiveness over time

Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5813875/#:~:text=When%20a%20biomarker%20can%20be,it%20is%20a%20monitoring%20biomarker.>



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Biomarker testing is a type of precision medicine performed by clinical laboratories that allows providers to tailor treatments to patients based on their unique genetic makeup, molecular profiles, and disease characteristics. This personalized approach can enhance treatment efficacy, reduce adverse effects, and improve patient outcomes.

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/3vzpz448>



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Studies demonstrate that cancer patients who receive biomarker-driven targeted therapy have better outcomes. In an American Cancer Society (ACS) survey, 89% of physicians said biomarker testing improves their ability to make more informed treatment recommendations.

Source: <https://colorectalcaner.org/article/not-all-states-mandate-biomarker-testing-coverage>



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