

Ground-Breaking Legislation Requires Lymphedema Education

Kudos to Lymphatic Education & Research Network and New York State Legislature



Lymphatic Education
& Research Network

When Governor Andrew Cuomo recently signed into law a bill requiring all New York general hospitals to distribute educational packets on lymphedema to patients who are at high risk of developing the debilitating condition, he set the bar for all 50 states: the importance of lymphedema education cannot be overstated and is readily measured in terms of improved health outcomes and quality of life.

Authored by the [Lymphatic Education & Research Network](#), a non-profit organization founded in 1998 to fight lymphatic diseases and lymphedema through education, research and advocacy, the new legislation is the first of its kind in the United States.

Commendations are also extended to the entire New York State legislature, especially NY Assembly member Linda B. Rosenthal for introducing the bill, and Senator Martin J. Golden for championing the bill in the Senate.

Lack of Awareness Among Patients and Providers

A lack of patient awareness and education on lymphedema is a major obstacle to obtaining timely and effective treatment. Up to [10 million Americans](#) suffer from the condition, mainly cancer survivors with damaged lymphatic systems from treatment. [Studies have shown](#) that breast cancer survivors are particularly susceptible to the condition. Depending on the cancer type and treatment plan to address it, up to 65 percent of breast cancer survivors experience lymphedema. Despite this high prevalence, [patients are often surprised](#) by its onset due to a lack of education from medical professionals. According to another study, [about 90 percent](#) of women who will develop lymphedema do so within three years of starting breast cancer treatment. The new legislation is an important step towards giving patients the cancer survivorship education that they need.

Early Treatment is Key

Educating cancer survivors and their health care providers is key to mitigating lymphedema's harmful effects. This legislation will empower survivors to be vigilant for signs of developing lymphedema and to seek treatment as early as possible. ImpediMed® supports this legislation as studies show early detection can help prevent the onset of irreversible lymphedema.

Measuring and Monitoring Lymphedema

As the global leader in non-invasive fluid status and tissue analysis, ImpediMed is dedicated to early detection and management of lymphedema. SOZO®, by ImpediMed, is an FDA-cleared bioimpedance spectroscopy device that uses L-Dex® technology to measure and monitor subtle changes in fluid accumulation indicative of the onset of lymphedema. SOZO is a critical tool in monitoring lymphedema immediately upon cancer diagnosis.

Increased awareness of lymphedema is an important first step to understanding the long-term harmful effects of cancer treatment. The next steps involve learning how to detect lymphedema early so that treatment can begin at the earliest possible stage.

To learn more about ImpediMed and how our technology can help prevent the onset of irreversible lymphedema, contact info@impedimed.com.