

Mauna Kea Technologies Announces Endorsement from The American Foregut Society for Payor Policy Coverage of Cellvizio®

Formal letter requests coverage of Cellvizio and its dedicated category I CPT Codes to significantly enhance early detection of Barrett’s Esophagus and Esophageal Cancer

Prevalence of Esophageal Cancer has increased more than 600%¹ in the past two decades, causing serious concern among gastroenterologists and foregut surgeons

Paris and Boston, September 10, 2024 – 5:45 p.m. CEST – Mauna Kea Technologies (Euronext Growth: **ALMKT**), inventor of Cellvizio®, the multidisciplinary probe and needle-based confocal laser endomicroscopy (p/nCLE) platform, today announces that the American Foregut Society (AFS), a leading society of gastroenterologists and surgeons collaborating to improve patient outcomes of several conditions, including esophageal disease, has formally requested that health insurance providers update their medical coverage policies to include Cellvizio and confocal laser endomicroscopy (CLE) as a covered service.

The [letter](#), available on the society website, provides details about the grim realities of currently covered tools and technologies for the early detection of precancerous conditions like Barrett’s Esophagus (BE) and cancerous conditions like Esophageal Cancer (EAC), and how those tools fail to enhance early detection, resulting in a dramatic rise in the prevalence of EAC over the past 20 years. The AFS outlines the strong clinical data supporting the use of Cellvizio as a safe and highly effective detection tool when used adjunctively during a standard endoscopy procedure and reiterates that its society members advocate for the clinical use of Cellvizio and strongly request coverage by payors.

“We are confident that expanding access to the Cellvizio procedure (CLE) will empower providers with an essential tool for upper endoscopy (EGD) that enables the early detection of BE and EAC,” says **Reginald Bell, M.D., FACS, the Chair of the AFS Board**, on behalf the society. *“Evaluation of Barrett’s esophagus to identify pre-cancerous changes and early cancer requires careful, detailed evaluation of the full extent of the Barrett’s mucosa. By the time obvious visible changes occur, advanced cancer is typically found. Early detection with Cellvizio is fully aligned with the mission of the American Foregut Society, and we urge consideration of immediate coverage of the Cellvizio procedure.”*

Sacha Loiseau, Ph.D., Chairman and CEO of Mauna Kea Technologies, commented: *“The AFS is the leading society which brings renowned gastroenterologists and foregut surgeons together under a common mission focused on esophageal cancer and other diseases of the foregut. Since its founding, AFS has advocated on behalf of patients and the providers who deliver their medical care, with the goal of preventing continued advancement of deadly diseases like esophageal cancer. The lack of payor coverage remains the number one barrier preventing patients from having broad access to better detection of early pre-cancerous changes in*

¹ Hang, Thuy-Van P., et al. “The Epidemiology of Esophageal Adenocarcinoma in the United States: Presidential Poster Award: 333.” The American Journal of Gastroenterology, vol. 113, no. Supplement, Wolters Kluwer Health Medical Research, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2018, pp. S185–S186.

their esophagus, which could save them from future esophageal cancer. On behalf of the millions of patients suffering from reflux disease, we are thankful for this endorsement and advocacy from the AFS and look forward to working with payors to expand further the coverage of Cellvizio, ultimately broadening patient access to our breakthrough imaging platform.”

About Mauna Kea Technologies

Mauna Kea Technologies is a global medical device company that manufactures and sells Cellvizio®, the real-time in vivo cellular imaging platform. This technology uniquely delivers in vivo cellular visualization which enables physicians to monitor the progression of disease over time, assess point-in-time reactions as they happen in real time, classify indeterminate areas of concern, and guide surgical interventions. The Cellvizio® platform is used globally across a wide range of medical specialties and is making a transformative change in the way physicians diagnose and treat patients. For more information, visit www.maunakeatech.com.

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