Plus Therapeutics to Present New Analysis at ISPOR Showing CNSide® May Reduce Leptomeningeal Metastases Healthcare Costs by 40%

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Health economics analysis highlights the economic burden of late-stage leptomeningeal metastases (LM) and the potential value of earlier diagnosis using CNSide as it enters U.S. commercialization

HOUSTON, March 19, 2026 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Plus Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: PSTV) ("Plus" or the "Company"), a healthcare company developing and commercializing precision diagnostics and radiopharmaceuticals for central nervous system (CNS) cancers, announces the presentation of a new health economics study evaluating the economic impact of earlier detection and therapeutic management of LM using the CNSide cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) assay. The cost-of-care analysis suggests that earlier LM diagnosis and therapeutic management enabled by CNSide may reduce overall LM-related healthcare costs by approximately 40%, primarily through earlier therapeutic intervention, improved treatment precision, and reduced hospitalizations. The findings support the potential clinical and economic value of CNSide as the Company advances commercialization of the assay in the United States.

The data will be presented at the ISPOR 2026 Annual Meeting, the leading global scientific conference focused on health economics and outcomes research (HEOR), bringing together researchers, healthcare decision-makers, and payer stakeholders. The meeting will take place May 17-20, 2026, in Philadelphia, PA.

"CNSide's ability to detect and monitor tumor cells in cerebrospinal fluid provides clinicians with actionable information earlier in the disease course," said Russ Havranek, EVP, Commercial and Corporate Strategy of Plus Therapeutics. "Health economics data demonstrating potential cost savings and improved outcomes are increasingly important to payers and health systems evaluating adoption of advanced diagnostics."

Presentation Highlights
The poster, titled, "*Economic Impact of Earlier Detection and Therapeutic Management of Leptomeningeal Metastases Using CNSide: A Cost-of-Care Analysis,*" co-authored by CNSide Diagnostics and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, will highlight the following:

- Late-stage LM diagnosis is associated with substantial healthcare costs, including median inpatient admissions of ~$20,000 (Interquartile range (IQR) $10,000-$30,000)
- Total LM-related costs may exceed $100,000 per month, driven by repeated imaging, LM-directed therapies, and palliative care
- Earlier detection and treatment optimization enabled by CNSide may reduce overall LM-related healthcare costs by ~40% (33%-47%)
- Potential savings are driven by earlier therapeutic intervention, improved treatment precision, reduced adverse events and hospitalizations, and gains in quality-adjusted life years (QALYs)
- The analysis also highlights the challenges of quantifying LM costs due to claims bundling with primary cancer treatment

The analysis utilized published literature, real-world data, and healthcare claims databases to estimate direct and indirect costs associated with late-stage LM diagnosis. Additional information on ISPOR 2026 and the presentation abstract can be found here.

About Leptomeningeal metastases
Leptomeningeal metastases (LM) are a rare but severe complication of advanced cancer, affecting the fluid-lined structures of the central nervous system. LM occurs in approximately 5% of patients with metastatic cancer, with breast cancer, lung cancer, and melanoma being the most common sources. Median survival is typically 2-6 months, and effective treatment options are limited, highlighting the urgent need for novel therapies.

About REYOBIQ™ (rhenium Re186 obisbemeda)
REYOBIQ (rhenium Re186 obisbemeda) is a novel injectable radiotherapy specifically formulated to deliver direct targeted high dose radiation in CNS tumors in a safe, effective, and convenient manner to optimize patient outcomes. REYOBIQ has the potential to reduce off target risks and improve outcomes for CNS cancer patients, versus currently approved therapies, with a more targeted and potent radiation dose. Rhenium-186 is an ideal radioisotope for CNS therapeutic applications due to its short half-life, beta energy for destroying cancerous tissue, and gamma energy for real-time imaging. REYOBIQ is being evaluated for the treatment of recurrent glioblastoma, leptomeningeal metastases, and pediatric brain cancer in the ReSPECT-GBM, ReSPECT-LM, and ReSPECT-PBC clinical trials. ReSPECT-GBM is supported by an award from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), and ReSPECT-LM is funded by a three-year $17.6M grant by the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). The Company's ReSPECT-PBC clinical trial for pediatric brain cancer is supported by a $3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense's Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program.

About CNSide Diagnostics, LLC
CNSide Diagnostics, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Plus Therapeutics, Inc. that develops and commercializes proprietary laboratory-developed tests, such as CNSide®, designed to identify tumor cells that have metastasized to the central nervous system in patients with carcinomas and melanomas. The CNSide® CSF Assay Platform enables quantitative analysis of the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) that informs and improves the management of patients with leptomeningeal metastases.

About Plus Therapeutics
Headquartered in Houston, Texas, Plus Therapeutics, Inc. is a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company developing targeted radiotherapeutics for

difficult-to-treat cancers of the central nervous system with the potential to enhance clinical outcomes. Combining image-guided local beta radiation and targeted drug delivery approaches, the Company is advancing a pipeline of product candidates with lead programs in leptomeningeal metastases (LM) and recurrent glioblastoma (GBM). The Company has built a supply chain through strategic partnerships that enable the development, manufacturing, and future potential commercialization of its products.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains statements that may be deemed “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of U.S. securities laws. All statements in this press release other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements may be identified by future verbs, as well as terms such as "expect," "anticipate" "intend," "believe," "estimate," "will," and similar expressions or the negatives thereof. Such statements are based upon certain assumptions and assessments made by management in light of their experience and their perception of historical trends, current conditions, expected future developments and other factors they believe to be appropriate. The forward-looking statements included in this press release could differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements because of risks, uncertainties, and other factors that include, but are not limited to, the following: expectations regarding the completion of the proposed offering; the Company's ability to successfully raise sufficient capital on reasonable terms or at all; available cash on hand and contractual and statutory limitations that could impair our ability to pay future dividends; our ability to complete our pre-clinical or clinical studies; and changes in local or national economic conditions. This list of risks, uncertainties, and other factors is not complete. Any or all forward-looking statements the Company makes may turn out to be wrong and can be affected by inaccurate assumptions the Company might make or by known or unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors, including those identified in this press release. This list of risks, uncertainties, and other factors is not complete. Plus Therapeutics discusses some of these matters more fully, as well as certain risk factors that could affect Plus Therapeutics’ business, financial condition, results of operations, and prospects, in its reports filed with the SEC, including Plus Therapeutics’ annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and current reports on Form 8-K. These filings are available for review through the SEC’s website at www.sec.gov. Any or all forward-looking statements Plus Therapeutics makes may turn out to be wrong and can be affected by inaccurate assumptions Plus Therapeutics might make or by known or unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors, including those identified in this press release. Accordingly, you should not place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements made in this press release, which speak only as of its date. There may be events in the future that the Company is unable to predict, or over which it has no control, and its business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may change in the future. The Company assumes no responsibility to update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect events, trends or circumstances after the date they are made unless the Company has an obligation under U.S. federal securities laws to do so.

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