



Plus Therapeutics Secures Blue Shield of California Coverage for CNSide® Cerebrospinal Fluid Assay for Metastatic CNS Cancer

April 28, 2026

Expands access by 6 million covered lives, advancing commercial momentum for CNSide® in metastatic CNS cancers

HOUSTON, April 28, 2026 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- CNSide Diagnostics, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of [Plus Therapeutics, Inc.](#) (Nasdaq: [PSTV](#)) ("Plus" or the "Company"), announced today a new payer coverage agreement with Blue Shield of California, effective April 2026, providing reimbursement for its CNSide® Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Tumor Cell Enumeration (TCE) assay for patients with metastatic central nervous system cancers. Blue Shield of California joins a growing list of national and regional payers, including United Healthcare, Humana, and Highmark, that provide coverage for CNSide.

The addition of Blue Shield of California expands CNSide's total covered lives from approximately 75 million to 81 million, representing continued progress toward the Company's 2026 objective of 150 million covered lives, while expanding patient access across the U.S. The agreement is expected to further accelerate adoption of CNSide across oncology centers by reducing reimbursement barriers.

"This agreement with Blue Shield of California represents another important step in expanding payer coverage and access to CNSide for patients with leptomeningeal metastases," said Russ Havranek, EVP Corporate and Commercial Strategy at Plus Therapeutics. "We continue to execute on our strategy to broaden reimbursement, support physician adoption, and improve outcomes for patients with difficult-to-diagnose CNS cancers."

The CNSide® CSF Assay Platform enables earlier, and more accurate detection and monitoring of leptomeningeal metastases compared to conventional CSF cytology, supporting rapid diagnosis, treatment monitoring, and treatment guidance. The superior clinical utility of CNSide® over standard of care has been demonstrated in nine peer-reviewed publications, the FORESEE clinical trial, and demonstrated in real-world practice. Earlier detection enabled by CNSide has been shown in health economic analyses to reduce overall leptomeningeal metastases-related healthcare costs by ~40%, driven by earlier detection and treatment optimization.

Since its commercial launch, more than 11,000 CNSide tests have been performed at over 120 U.S. cancer institutions since 2020, delivering high sensitivity (92%) and specificity (95%), while influencing treatment decisions in 90% of cases.

This test is available exclusively through CNSide Diagnostics, LLC. as a testing service provided to health care professionals in the U.S.

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 that informs and improves the management of patients with leptomeningeal metastases. For more information, visit <https://www.cnside-dx.com/>.

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. For more information, visit <https://www.plustherapeutics.com>.

About Blue Shield of California

Blue Shield of California strives to create a healthcare system worthy of its family and friends that is sustainably affordable. The health plan is a taxpaying, nonprofit, independent member of the Blue Shield Association with 6 million members, over 6,500 employees and more than \$27 billion in annual revenue. Founded in 1939 in San Francisco and now headquartered in Oakland, Blue Shield of California and its affiliates provide health, dental, vision, Medicaid and Medicare healthcare service plans in California. The company has contributed more than \$60 million to the Blue Shield of California Foundation in the last three years to have an impact on California communities. For more news about Blue Shield of California, please visit news.blueshieldca.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of U.S. securities laws, including statements regarding clinical trials, expected operations and upcoming developments. 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," "potential," "anticipating," "planning" 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. These statements include, without limitation, statements regarding the potential market for the CNSide CSF Assay, the timing in which the CNSide CSF Assay is commercially launched and commercialization is expanded, revenue and corporate profitability expectations including support reimbursements and payments for the CNSide CSF Assay, the development and utility of the CNSide CSF Assay and expectations as to the Company's future performance, including the next steps in developing the Company's product candidates.

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