# A Patient's Guide to Biomarkers in Multiple Myeloma



#### What are myeloma biomarkers and why are they important?

- Myeloma biomarkers are substances (for example, proteins, genes, and DNA) in your body that reveal signs of myeloma
- Biomarker testing helps determine the presence and level of myeloma
- Results from biomarker testing can help doctors diagnose myeloma, measure its severity, and select appropriate treatment

### How is biomarker testing done?



• Your doctor may recommend that you undergo laboratory tests to identify specific DNA, proteins, and other factors unique to the myeloma



#### What do biomarker test results mean?

Results from myeloma biomarker tests can help doctors establish your...

- Diagnosis
- Prognosis
  - Some biomarkers can show if your myeloma is aggressive

For information on how biomarkers are used in disease prognosis, see the Risk Assessment infographic.

Predictive biomarkers help identify patients who may respond better to a particular treatment

- Some treatments may only work if you have certain biomarkers\*
- BCMA is being evaluated as a predictive biomarker, because it is present at higher levels on myeloma cells than on other cells

\*Patients who have a translocation of chromosomes 11 and 14 respond better to Venclexta than do patients without this translocation. Venclexta is currently in clinical trials but is not yet approved by the FDA for use in myeloma.





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## **The MMRF Patient Navigation Center**

is a space for patients to connect with patient navigators—who are oncology professionals-for guidance, information, and support.

You can reach the MMRF Patient Navigation Center by phone at **1-888-841-6673**, Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM Eastern Time, or on the Web at **themmrf.org/resources/patient-navigator-center** 

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