

**A safe, affordable way to improve care:
Repurpose approved UCAs for whole-body use**

Presentation to Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA
Drug Repurposing: Considerations for Selection Criteria and Prioritization

Assigned topic:

“Examples of successful prioritization approaches from other programs or jurisdictions that could be adapted”

Hybrid Public Meeting
August 5, 2026

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82028040286>

Statement on behalf of the International Contrast Ultrasound Society - a grassroots nonprofit organization representing doctors, sonographers, scientists and patients in 90 countries:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the repurposing of ultrasound contrast agents (UCAs) – which are drugs that enhance diagnostic ultrasound scans. Their use changes management and outcomes for patients suffering from cancers and diseases, including rare diseases, throughout the body .

At present adult indications are limited to the heart and liver -- but benefits are much broader because a single IV injection shows perfusion of all organs.

UCAs are ideal candidates for repurposing because:

1. Safety is well established in clinical trials and scientific literature.
2. Clinical practice guidelines recommend uses throughout the body.
3. Some patients have **no other option for advanced imaging**. For example, patients who are kidney-impaired or pregnant may not be

candidates for contrast-CT or MR because those contrast agents can damage kidneys, cross the placenta, and present risk of gadolinium deposit in the brain.

4. Because UCAs provide **reliable results in real-time**, they reduce the need for downstream tests and procedures -- lowering costs and risks.
5. Limiting use to the heart and liver is clinically illogical. If a radiologist examines the liver, for example, and spots a suspicious mass on the kidney or spleen, it makes sense to move the transducer and follow the disease.
6. And ultrasound is more affordable and more widely available than MR and CT.

That's why UCAs are often used for whole-body applications in Europe and elsewhere, **without raising safety concerns**.

Unfortunately, in the US, our organ-specific approval process can be cost-prohibitive and burdensome.

We believe UCAs are low-hanging regulatory fruit and should be one of the first drugs considered for repurposing. They are safe, affordable, and have the potential for high impact on care and outcomes involving cancers and diseases throughout the body.

Thank you.