

FACTSHEET

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Comprehensive Care for Alzheimer's Act

Caring for an individual living with Alzheimer's or another dementia poses unique challenges.

- More than 9 in 10 Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia have at least one other chronic condition, the management of which is made more complicated by dementia.
- Individuals with dementia rely heavily on family members to provide a large amount of care, which is often intrusive and exhausting.
- Too often, those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers are forced to fend for themselves in the complicated maze of the health care and social support systems.

Dementia care management can ease these challenges, improving quality of care and reducing costs.

- Dementia care management enables individuals to more seamlessly navigate health care and social support systems and to obtain more timely access to care.
- Elements of the care model include care coordination and navigation, management of chronic conditions, and caregiver education and support.
- An economic analysis found that better care through dementia care management would save the federal government nearly \$21 billion over 10 years — while also improving the quality of life for individuals living with dementia and their families.

However, a change in the payment structure is necessary to enable dementia care management.

- Under the current system, many practices cannot afford the upfront costs of developing, implementing, and sustaining a dementia care management program.
- Instead of paying a fee for each specific service, providers should receive an annual per-patient payment for all services provided under the program, including important services not otherwise reimbursed by Medicare.
- This structure would allow dementia care management programs to be financially feasible for health care providers and practices, especially for smaller practices, rural practices, and inner-city community health centers.

The Comprehensive Care for Alzheimer's Act would ask the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to test a better payment structure for dementia care management. This model would:

- Provide services such as the development of a dementia care plan, care coordination and navigation, and caregiver education and support.
- Ensure patients have access to an interdisciplinary team of providers with dementia care expertise.
- Reimburse providers through a capitated payment and an incentive payment based on performance.