

# FACTSHEET

MARCH 2024

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## National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease

### What is the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*?

- The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) (P.L. 111-375), unanimously approved by Congress in 2010 and signed into law in 2011, required the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to create a national strategic plan to address the Alzheimer's crisis and to update it annually.
- On May 15, 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services released the first *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*. The most recent annual update was released in December 2023.
- The 2021 update added, for the first time since the Plan's inception, a new national goal. This goal focuses on healthy aging and reducing risk factors for cognitive decline and dementia.
- The National Plan now has six overarching goals:
  - Prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease;
  - Enhance care quality and efficiency;
  - Expand supports for people with Alzheimer's disease and their families;
  - Enhance public awareness and engagement;
  - Improve data to track progress;
  - Accelerate action to promote healthy aging and reduce risk factors for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

### What does the Plan include to advance Alzheimer's research?

- In May 2012, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) held an international conference of Alzheimer's scientists and researchers. As a result of the conference, timelines and milestones were developed to reach the goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's. Subsequent conferences have resulted in the revision and expansion of the milestones, most recently in March 2023.
- Between reprogramming of funds by the Administration and additional funds provided by Congress, research for Alzheimer's disease at the NIH has increased nearly 670% since 2013.
- Under the Alzheimer's Accountability Act, which became law in 2014, the National Plan process now includes the annual submission of an Alzheimer's research budget directly to Congress, bypassing the normal bureaucratic procedures.
- The Plan calls for coordinating research efforts with international public and private entities. Toward this end, the G8 nations held a dementia summit in December 2013 to enhance research collaboration between countries and to expand public-private partnerships. And, in 2017, the World Health Organization approved a global action plan on dementia, which includes a call for increased research funding and innovation worldwide.

## How does the Plan improve care and support for those living with the disease?

- Effective January 1, 2017, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a billing code — now CPT® code 99483 — to reimburse clinicians who provide comprehensive assessment and care planning to those with a cognitive impairment.
- In 2016, CMS released guidance for community-based settings that use secured egress measures to deter individuals with dementia from wandering. This guidance focuses on the importance of person-centered planning in keeping individuals safe and offers best practices in staffing, activities, and environmental design.
- In October 2017, the NIH hosted the National Research Summit on Care, Services, and Supports for Persons with Dementia and Their Caregivers. The summit focused on what research was needed to improve dementia care, caregiving, and the care workforce. More than 450 research recommendations were considered. Follow-up summits were held in 2020 and 2023.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration developed a uniform curriculum on Alzheimer's to ensure the workforce has the necessary skills to provide high-quality dementia care. Also, a clearinghouse of dementia care curricula and practice recommendations was created for providers across the care continuum.
- The 2020, 2021, and 2022 updates to the National Plan included new action items related to better understanding health disparities in Alzheimer's through expanding data collection and improving access to care planning tools.
- The 2023 update detailed important advances in the treatment of Alzheimer's and began identifying potential barriers to their equitable delivery.

## Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services

The National Alzheimer's Project Act (Public Law 111-375) created an *Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services* to assist in the development and evaluation of the National Plan. The Council is comprised of representatives of 11 federal agencies and 12 individuals from outside the federal government. The Council is currently chaired by Adrienne Mims, the Chief Medical Officer at Rainmaker Strategic Solutions. Each year, the Advisory Council makes recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services in the areas of clinical care, long term care and supports, research, and risk reduction. The most recent recommendations were unanimously adopted by the non-federal members of the Advisory Council in July 2023.

## Does the Plan ensure accountability?

- A federal agency has been assigned responsibility for each provision of the Plan to ensure the provision is implemented.
- The Plan sets specific implementation dates, identifying what will be achieved and when.

## What is the role of Congress?

- Congress called for the creation of the Plan when it unanimously passed NAPA.
- Now, it is the role of Congress to:
  - Provide funding for Alzheimer's research at a level consistent with the Alzheimer's budget request from NIH scientists;
  - Conduct oversight of the Plan to ensure adequate steps are being taken to improve care and support for those with the disease and their families.