

# 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.