

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2023

Director Elizabeth Fowler  
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)  
2810 Lord Baltimore Drive  
Windsor Mill, MD 21244

Dear Director Fowler,

Thank you for your bold and consistent leadership on issues important to Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementia, as well as their caregivers. We write to you today to urge you to create a Dementia Care Management (DCM) model in Medicare, which would improve the lives of Alzheimer's patients by ensuring comprehensive care.

As you know, caring for an individual with Alzheimer's or other dementia poses unique challenges. Research suggests that a DCM model, a collaborative and interdisciplinary dementia care alternative payment model, has the potential to improve medical outcomes for people with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, improve their quality of life and that of their caregivers, and produce net savings to the Medicare program. We ask that you swiftly implement a national DCM to test the effectiveness of comprehensive care management services.

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), over 95 percent of individuals with dementia have one or more other chronic conditions, such as hypertension, heart disease, and diabetes. Management of these chronic conditions is impeded by an individual's cognitive impairment. Consequently, patients with dementia use health services at significantly higher rates. However, more coordinated care and interventions may reduce avoidable healthcare utilization and medical complications. A comprehensive care model can help reduce hospitalizations and emergency department visits, as well as delay nursing home placement.

Many such medical costs are unnecessary and are avoidable through proper coordination and management of care and timely access to treatments and interventions. There are proven ways to improve the quality of care and quality of life – and reduce Medicare spending – if the payment incentives are structured accordingly. A recent analysis conducted by consulting firm Healthsperien found that better care through dementia care management would save the federal government nearly \$21 billion over 10 years while improving the quality of life for both individuals with dementia and their families.

The proposed DCM would be a collaborative and interdisciplinary alternative payment model supported by innovative dementia-specific approaches to payment methodology, patient assessment and eligibility criteria, and other key design parameters. By testing the effectiveness of current comprehensive care management services for persons with dementia, a DCM would ensure high standards of care, pay providers a monthly amount based on the complexity and quality of patient care, provide support to caregivers, and require outreach to underrepresented

populations. Further, enhanced coordination can advance more significant outcomes for providers, such as small practices and solo practitioners caring for patients with dementia.

Our bipartisan bill, the Comprehensive Care for Alzheimer's Act (S. 626), recommends that CMMI implement a dementia care management model to test the effectiveness of comprehensive care management services. While there is overwhelming bipartisan support for this bill, CMMI has the existing authority to begin implementing a DCM now. Given the growing aging population and demand for comprehensive care services, we ask that you use that existing authority immediately, without waiting for the bill to become law.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on behalf of all Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementia. We look forward to working with you to implement a dementia care management model that benefits as many Medicare beneficiaries as possible, especially those from diverse communities and rural and medically underserved areas.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator



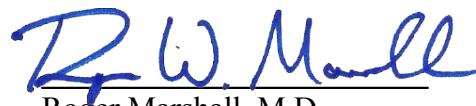
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Mike Braun  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



James Lankford  
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



---

Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator