Medicare's Next Payment Innovation

ACCESS Model

ADVANCING CHRONIC CARE WITH EFFECTIVE, SCALABLE SOLUTIONS

EFFECTIVE JULY 5, 2026

- Tests a new payment approach for managing chronic disease in Original Medicare.
- Shifts from paying for individual services to paying for measurable patient outcomes.
- Encourages technology-supported, clinician-guided care.

Focus Conditions:

- **Hypertension**
- **Diabetes**
- **Obesity**
- **Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain**
- **Chronic Kidney Disease**
- **Depression & Anxiety**

What ACCESS means for Skilled Nursing Providers



Although ACCESS does not change Skilled Nursing Facility benefits, it signals where Medicare reimbursement is heading:

Expect Greater Emphasis on:

- Technology-enabled care
- Care coordination across providers
- Remote patient monitoring
- Telehealth & digital therapeutics
- Chronic disease management after discharge
- Preventing avoidable hospital readmissions
- Measurable patient outcomes

OPPORTUNITY FOR SNFs



Facilities that effectively coordinate transitions of care and document positive patient outcomes will be better positioned as Medicare increasingly rewards **value** rather than **volume**.

Alzheimer's Patients

"Does Medicare cover **At-Home Care** for Alzheimer patients?"

*Answer: **Only** if homebound + deemed essential*

Services related to other **health conditions,** such as rehab

Non-Medical Services

*Medicare **Will** Cover:*

Home safety evaluations

Cognitive assessments

Care planning

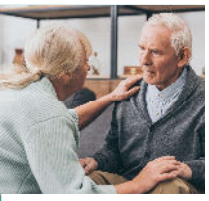
Hospital stays

Prescriptions

(if patient has Part D coverage)













Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience

GUIDE Program Model

Information for Patients & Caregivers

CMS
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

What is GUIDE?

Your doctor or care team may be participating in a new program called GUIDE. This program offers enhanced services for dementia care and support for caregivers (a relative or unpaid nonrelative who helps with activities of daily living). The goals of GUIDE are to:

- Improve the quality of life for people living with dementia
- Enhance support for caregivers of people living with dementia
- Help people living with dementia stay in their homes and communities longer

Services for people living with dementia & their caregivers

Comprehensive Assessment & Care Plan

Get an **assessment** to identify your individual health needs and to build a **care plan** that is tailored to provide the services you need.

Caregiver Support

A relative or unpaid nonrelative who helps as a caregiver can **receive education** and **support** such as direct communication with a care navigator when they need it.

GUIDE Respite Services

GUIDE Respite Services can be provided, up to an annual cap, so caregivers may take a break when they need to. Support comes from local in-home respite providers, adult day centers and nursing homes.

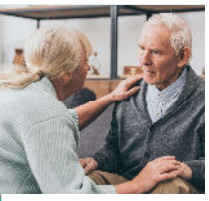
Coordination & Support

Get connected to **community-based services** like meals and transportation. Care teams will also work together to **coordinate** clinical and support services.

24/7 Access

Care navigators help you get care and **24/7 access** to a care team member or helpline to ask questions or get support.











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Patient Example

Mildred is an 86-year-old woman living alone with **moderate dementia**. She has regular appointments with her primary care doctor, dentist, and optometrist, and gets her medications from a local pharmacist. Her **caregiver**, Anne, is her 35-year-old granddaughter who visits daily to help with housekeeping and personal care tasks. Anne is a mom with a full-time job.

Challenges before GUIDE

- Mildred was experiencing worsening symptoms related to her dementia.
- Her primary care doctor wasn't equipped to treat her dementia.
- She needed help getting to appointments and taking medications.
- Anne was burnt out as a caregiver and wanted to find Mildred a nursing home, but it was too costly.

Help & support from GUIDE

- Mildred learns about GUIDE from her doctor and starts working with an **interdisciplinary care team.**
- Mildred's **care navigator** connects her to transportation services.
- Anne gets **caregiver training** to cope with Mildred's symptoms and her own stress.
- Mildred receives **GUIDE Respite Services,** allowing Anne to take a break.

Services customized to meet individual needs and goals

Care that respects individual backgrounds & values