

2023 Issue Brief Promoting Access to Care for the Chronically Ill

Issue

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an estimated 117 million adults have one or more chronic health conditions.ⁱ Chronic care management (CCM) is a critical part of coordinated care. As a result, Medicare began reimbursing physicians for CCM under a separate billing code in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. This code is designed to reimburse providers for non-face-to-face care management. Providers and care managers have discovered several positive outcomes for CCM beneficiaries, including improved patient satisfaction and adherence to recommended therapies, improved clinician efficiency, and decreased hospitalizations and emergency department visits.ⁱⁱ

However, current guidelines from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force do not classify CCM as a preventive service. Because of this, CMS requires that beneficiaries pay a 20% coinsurance for this care. Since AMGA members have long been providing these services without cost, it is difficult to begin charging beneficiaries for these services. The latest data reveals that only 4% of Medicare beneficiaries potentially eligible for CCM received these services. That amounts to 882,000 out of a potential pool of 22.5 million eligible CCM beneficiaries. To avoid underutilization of this important service, CCM should be a preventative service, which should not have a coinsurance requirement.ⁱⁱⁱ

Reps. Suzan DelBene (D-WA) and Jeff Duncan (R-SC) have introduced legislation waiving Medicare's CCM code coinsurance requirement, the Chronic Care Management Improvement Act. Eliminating the coinsurance payment for Medicare beneficiaries receiving CCM services would facilitate more comprehensive management of chronic care conditions and improve the health of Medicare patients.

AMGA asks Congress to:

Mandate that CMS waive the current CCM code coinsurance for Medicare beneficiaries to ensure appropriate use of CCM services, maximum access for patients, and improved health outcomes

- **Approve H.R. 2829, the Chronic Care Management Improvement Act of 2023**

ⁱ <https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/agency-information/omh/health-equity-programs/c2c/ccm>

ⁱⁱ <https://innovation.cms.gov/files/reports/chronic-care-mngmt-finalevalrpt.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/31b7d0eeb7decf52f95d569ada0733b4/CCM-TCM-Descriptive-Analysis.pdf>