

Summary of Member Discussion: Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model: Evidence-Based Approaches to Provide Caregiver Supportive Services and Other Home- and Community-Based Services

Event Date: November 15, 2024 1-2 PM ET

Speakers:

- *Tonya Saffer*, Director, Division of Healthcare Payment Models, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
- *Nora Super*, Senior Fellow, Long-Term Quality Alliance and Chair, External Advisory Committee, National Dementia Care Collaborative
- *John Barth*, Vice President, Business Development, Molina Healthcare

In November 2024, Long-Term Quality Alliance (LTQA) held an in-depth member discussion on the [Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience \(GUIDE\) Model](#), a CMS initiative launched in 2023 to test alternative payment methods for comprehensive dementia care.

Among other objectives, this model aims to improve outcomes for people with dementia, reduce caregiver stress, and lower Medicare expenditures. It includes caregiver support services, such as care management, caregiver education, respite services, and care coordination. Over 200,000 Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers are expected to benefit from the model, which currently operates through two tracks: established programs and pre-implementation programs. The webinar discussion also explored evidence-based approaches to dementia care and how managed care plans, like Molina Healthcare, might integrate GUIDE-like benefits.

Saffer highlighted the core goals and structure of the GUIDE model, emphasizing its focus on improving the quality of life for individuals with dementia, reducing caregiver strain, and lowering institutional care placement rates. She detailed the program's eligibility criteria, noting that it includes Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries but excludes those in Medicare Advantage plans, nursing homes, PACE, or hospice programs. The model's payment structure is a per-member-per-month model with quality and equity adjustments. Eligible beneficiaries and their caregivers can access benefits for respite care services. GUIDE participants span all 50 states and 30,000 distinct zip codes, delivering services both in-person and via telehealth. Saffer also explained that GUIDE mandates an interdisciplinary care team, including but not limited to care navigators and clinicians with dementia proficiency, to meet its high-quality standards.

Super emphasized the role of the [National Dementia Care Collaborative](#) in supporting the GUIDE model by facilitating the dissemination of six evidence-based dementia care models. Examples include the Indiana University [Eskenazi Health Aging Brain Care Program](#), which is delivered by community health workers and dementia care coordinators in the home setting or via telephone; [UCLA's Alzheimer and Dementia Care Program](#), which uses advanced practice providers like nurse practitioners to implement personalized care plans; and [Benjamin Rose](#)

[Institute's Care Consultation program](#), a predominantly phone-based care consultant system. These models meet GUIDE's core requirements and have been rigorously tested to ensure high quality outcomes. **Super** also highlighted tools like a searchable database of effective dementia programs for caregivers and service providers, known as [Best Programs for Caregivers](#), underscoring the importance of resources to support GUIDE participants.

Barth discussed Molina Healthcare's perspective and alignment with the GUIDE model, focusing on caregiver support, education, strategic partnerships, delivery of GUIDE-like services, and prioritization on home and community-based services. Molina's efforts in-part include establishing relationships with GUIDE providers and community organizations and expanding home- and community-based services (HCBS) to support caregivers. He emphasized the importance of seamless communication between Medicare Fee-for-Service, Medicare Advantage, and managed care organizations to ensure continuity of care for GUIDE participants.

Overall, the LTQA member discussion offered valuable insights into innovative approaches to supporting individuals with dementia and their caregivers through the GUIDE model. By scaling evidence-based programs, CMMI's GUIDE initiative sets a precedent for future advancements in delivery of high-quality, coordinated services for individuals with dementia and their familial caregivers.