

CMS: New Dementia Care Program Will Pay For Telehealth

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(Inside Health Policy)

CMS told *Inside TeleHealth* it expects nearly all the services available through its new at-home dementia care program could be provided via telehealth and the new monthly Medicare payments for the program will likely pay for telehealth and technology.

CMS' innovation center last Monday (July 31) unveiled a new eight-year dementia care model aimed at delaying long-term nursing home care for the population by paying providers to offer people with dementia and their home and community-based caregivers access to a care navigator that will help them access services and supports, including clinical and non-clinical services. The new [Guiding An Improved Dementia Experience Model \(GUIDE\)](#) is set to begin July 2024, and beneficiaries must have a diagnosis of dementia and be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to participate.

While initial information released about the program did not specify that telehealth would be an acceptable modality for interacting with patients, follow up clarification from CMS indicated the program is designed to be flexible, and CMS said that many comprehensive dementia care services could be delivered virtually.

"The model's monthly care management payment is intended to provide flexibility in how participating providers deliver care, including what modalities they use to interact with beneficiaries and caregivers," CMS told *Inside TeleHealth*.

In addition to telehealth, organizations could choose to incorporate remote monitoring for dementia care into their programs, CMS continued. Financial support intended to support underserved beneficiaries could be used for other technologies, CMS added.

In an email to *Inside TeleHealth*, CMS listed the comprehensive assessment, which includes a screening for health-related social needs, as a service that could be reasonably provided via telehealth and said caregiver education could be delivered virtually.

However, CMS told Inside TeleHealth it "anticipate[s] that nearly all model components could be delivered virtually."

CMS said telehealth and virtual delivery of GUIDE services will particularly help beneficiaries and caregivers in rural areas and communities without access to specialized dementia care. - *Emma Beavins*(ebeavins@iwppnews.com)