



Strengthening Medicare Through Comprehensive Medication Management

Comprehensive medication management (CMM) services provided by clinical pharmacists will improve patient care and reduce healthcare costs in Medicare. In order to ensure that beneficiaries get the best outcomes possible from their medications, ACCP proposes to amend Medicare Part B to cover CMM. CMM is currently not included in Medicare, although it is a standard of practice under many private sector and government health care delivery and insurance programs. By helping to optimize the positive effects of drug therapy, this proposal will keep seniors healthier, improve their quality of life and save money.

- CMM is provided to patients by qualified clinical pharmacists to identify and resolve medication related problems. The care is furnished directly to patients in full collaboration with their physicians and healthcare team utilizing formal “collaborative drug therapy management” (CDTM) agreements. CDTM is authorized in forty nine of fifty states.
- Medication management services are not currently covered by Medicare Part B. While the Medicare Part D program includes a limited medication therapy management (MTM) benefit, nearly 30% of all seniors are not enrolled in Part D. These seniors don’t have coverage for any form of medication management services. We believe that all seniors should have access to comprehensive medication management services. Coverage of CMM in Part B will ensure that they do.
- CMM is provided as part of a coordinated healthcare team, in full consultation with patients’ physicians. Team-based, coordinated care, such as that provided in patient-centered medical homes (PCMH), is the goal of virtually every serious health reform proposal today -- and this benefit fits precisely into those models. In fact, the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative endorses CMM “as an essential professional activity for effective integrated care.”
- Seniors suffer from a disproportionate share of medication-related problems, the cost of which exceeds \$200 billion annually. By helping seniors achieve the best possible outcomes from their medications, CMM will help control and reduce these costs.
- This care is highly cost effective. Private estimates indicate that by improving the quality of seniors’ drug therapy, Medicare costs could be reduced by as much as \$10 billion annually. These savings would come largely from reduced hospitalization, emergency room care and enhanced efficiency of physician office visits.

“Getting the medications right” is an essential objective for a modernized, cost-effective and quality-focused Medicare program. Congress should enact legislation to reform Medicare Part B to cover comprehensive medication management services provided by qualified clinical pharmacists as members of the patient’s health care team.

For more information, contact the ACCP Office of Government Affairs at (202) 621-1820