

ON THE ISSUES: HEALTH REFORM & DEMENTIA

As Congress and the Administration work to improve health care outcomes and reduce costs, they must keep in mind the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010](#)ⁱ (ACA) provisions that support more than five million people living with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia and their families.

Alzheimer's Disease Protections at Risk Under the ACA Reform

Expanded Access to Health and Social Care for People with Dementia and Their Caregivers

- The Medicare Annual Wellness Visit including the cognitive assessment to measure memory loss
- Coordination of care for dually-eligible beneficiaries under Medicare and Medicaid
- Expanded access to Medicaid insurance
- Reduced out-of-pocket medication costs for beneficiaries in the Medicare Prescription Drug Plans coverage gap
- Health insurance for young adults up to age 26, who are caring for loved ones with dementia
- Services and outreach through the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative under the Prevention and Public Health Fund

Support for Dementia Research and Clinical Trial Participants

- Health insurance coverage for clinical trial participants with life-threatening illnesses
- CMS Innovation Center Pilot Programs which identify new models of care that will yield lower costs and better outcomes
- Patient-centered and patient-powered research for Alzheimer's through the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

Consumer Protections for the Most Vulnerable and Their Family Caregivers

- Non-discrimination policies to protect individuals with pre-existing conditions
- Coverage for essential health benefits, such as preventative services and emergency care
- Spousal asset protections for family caregivers living in the community
- Improved nursing home regulations that require transparency and improved quality of care

