

FACTSHEET

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National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease

What is the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*?

- The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) — bipartisan legislation unanimously approved by Congress — required the creation of an annually updated national strategic plan to address the rapidly escalating Alzheimer's crisis.
- On May 15, 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services released the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*. The most recent annual update was released on October 24, 2019.
- The Plan has five overarching goals:
 - Prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025
 - Enhance care quality and efficiency
 - Expand supports for people with Alzheimer's disease and their families
 - Enhance public awareness and engagement
 - Improve data to track progress.

Alzheimer's Research Milestones

To achieve the National Plan's goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's by 2025, the NIH has established 151 milestones across 16 areas of research, including drug development, biomarkers, non-pharmacological interventions, and clinical trial recruitment.

What does the Plan include to advance Alzheimer's research?

- In May 2012, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) held an international conference of Alzheimer's scientists and researchers. As a result of the conference, timelines and milestones were developed to reach the goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's by 2025. A follow-up conference in February 2015 resulted in the revision and expansion of the milestones. A third summit was held in March 2018.
- Between reprogramming of funds by the Administration and additional funds provided by Congress, research for Alzheimer's disease at the NIH has increased more than 400 percent since the creation of the National Plan.
- Under the Alzheimer's Accountability Act, which became law in 2014, the National Plan process now includes the annual submission of an Alzheimer's research budget directly to Congress, bypassing the normal bureaucratic procedures.
- The Plan calls for coordinating research efforts with international public and private entities. Toward this end, the G8 nations held a dementia summit in December 2013 to enhance research collaboration between countries and to expand public-private partnerships. And, in 2017, the World Health Organization approved a global action plan on dementia, which includes a call for increased research funding and innovation worldwide.

How does the Plan improve care and support for those living with the disease?

- Effective January 1, 2017, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a billing code — now CPT® code 99483 — to reimburse clinicians who provide comprehensive assessment and care planning to those with a cognitive impairment.
- In 2016, CMS released guidance for community-based settings that use secured egress measures to deter individuals with dementia from wandering. This guidance focuses on the importance of person-centered planning in keeping individuals safe and offers best practices in staffing, activities, and environmental design.
- In October 2017, the Department of Health and Human Services and private sector organizations held the National Research Summit on Care, Services, and Supports for Persons with Dementia and Their Caregivers. The summit focused on what research was needed to improve dementia care, caregiving, and the care workforce. More than 450 research recommendations were considered.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration developed a uniform curriculum on Alzheimer's to ensure the workforce has the necessary skills to provide high-quality dementia care. Also, a clearinghouse of dementia care curricula and practice recommendations was created for providers across the care continuum.
- The 2019 update to the Plan includes a new emphasis on data analysis to better understand how to support persons living with dementia, including the use of care planning services, the shortage of informal caregivers, and nursing home discharges.

Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services

The National Alzheimer's Project Act (Public Law 111-375) created an *Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services* to assist in the development and evaluation of the National Plan. The Council is comprised of representatives of 11 federal agencies and 11 individuals from outside the federal government. The Council is currently co-chaired by Katie Brandt of Massachusetts General Hospital and Dr. Allan Levey of Emory University.

The law requires the Advisory Council to report recommendations annually to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The most recent recommendations were unanimously adopted by the non-federal members of the Advisory Council on July 29, 2019.

Does the Plan ensure accountability?

- A federal agency has been assigned responsibility for each provision of the Plan to ensure the provision is implemented.
- The Plan sets specific implementation dates, identifying what will be achieved and when.

What is the role of Congress?

- Congress called for the creation of the Plan when it unanimously passed NAPA.
- Now, it is the role of Congress to:
 - Provide funding for Alzheimer's research at a level consistent with the Alzheimer's budget request from NIH scientists.
 - Conduct oversight of the Plan to ensure adequate steps are being taken to improve care and support for those with the disease and their families.