

# STATE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PLANS: EARLY DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS

*Recommendations to encourage increased detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease*

Alabama	
Alaska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop multi-disciplinary teams to provide peer professional education and outreach to physicians and other providers to recognize and address early signs of dementia.</li> <li>• Increase the use of dementia assessments and tracking cognitive changes compared to baseline at annual exams for individuals over age 60 in primary care settings.</li> <li>• Create a “tool box” about persons with a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s and other dementias for use by physicians to encourage early detection and diagnosis.</li> <li>• Promote cognition as an essential “vital sign” to be assessed during patients’ Annual Wellness Visits, including for Medicare, to both the general public and the medical community.</li> </ul>
Arizona	
Arkansas	
California	
Colorado	
Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness to health care providers about validated cognitive assessment tools that could be administered in the continuum of settings, such as physicians’ offices, clinics, emergency rooms, and acute care hospitals.</li> <li>• Promote the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit, which includes a cognitive impairment assessment for early detection and diagnosis.</li> <li>• Encourage practitioners to document any cognitive changes in an individual’s medical record.</li> <li>• Compensate providers for the time required to collect and analyze the data for a thorough clinical assessment.</li> </ul>
Delaware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for the inclusion of early detection of Alzheimer’s disease as a focus area in the Division of Public Health’s Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Section.</li> <li>• Provide guidance to care providers, care managers, and advocates on the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit and on the use of Medicare coding to reimburse physicians and allied health professionals for family conferences and care consultation that educate and support family caregivers, guide future decisions, and enhance the quality of medical care and support services.</li> </ul>
District of Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the early detection of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias by implementing a campaign that provides information on the seven stages of Alzheimer’s disease. Establish partnerships with businesses and community service groups. Educate and enlist villages and the faith-based community in reaching out to and supporting family caregivers and people living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.</li> <li>• Increase awareness and establish a campaign among District of Columbia residents that encourages residents to take advantage of cognitive screenings that are included in yearly wellness examinations under Medicare/Medicaid.</li> </ul>
Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure persons and family caregivers affected by Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias have better access to memory assessments and support.</li> </ul>
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• De-stigmatize dementia and encourage individuals to explore concerns about memory problems with their physicians.</li> <li>• Educate physicians and other health care providers about the importance of early, accurate diagnosis, and provide appropriate tools and training.</li> <li>• Develop a strategic plan that supports faith- and community-based organizations in their efforts to provide early detection, education, and resources for individuals and families experiencing symptoms of memory loss and dementia. Work through health ministries to identify persons in need of an assessment and to support those with dementia and their caregivers.</li> </ul>

Georgia (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize cognition as a "vital sign" and assess all Medicare patients during the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit.</li> <li>• Develop a plan for high-risk populations such as persons with mental illness and developmental disabilities to be assessed for dementia and, when diagnosed, to have the diagnosis routinely recorded in medical records.</li> </ul>
Hawaii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure timely and accurate diagnosis by identifying screening and assessment tools, and making them widely available in clinical settings.</li> <li>• Educate and support people with Alzheimer's and other dementias and their families upon diagnosis.</li> </ul>
Idaho	
Illinois	
Indiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve detection of cognitive impairment.</li> </ul>
Iowa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a statewide campaign to educate healthcare providers regarding early detection instruments, such as the AD8 and Mini-Cog.</li> </ul>
Kentucky	
Louisiana	
Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop plans for multilingual, multicultural awareness campaign for consumers and professionals regarding the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit and the inclusion of the "detection of any cognitive impairment" requirement.</li> <li>• Work with governmental agencies, medical associations, medical providers, health and community support providers and insurers to identify and/or create improved detection tools for dementia and coordination of medical care and referral for community support and services.</li> <li>• Encourage employers to participate in programs such as the Alzheimer's Early Detection Alliance as well as to include in Employee Assistance Programs care coordination counseling, advocacy and referral services that help with the challenges of Alzheimer's caregiving.</li> </ul>
Maryland	
Massachusetts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the Alzheimer's Early Detection Alliance of the Alzheimer's Association to reach community business partners, human resources departments, and employee assistance programs to make educational information available to their employees and customers.</li> <li>• Develop plans for a multilingual, multicultural awareness campaign for consumers and professionals regarding the Annual Wellness Visit.</li> <li>• Work with governmental agencies, medical associations, medical providers, health and community support providers and insurers to improve screening for dementia, coordination of medical care and referral for community support and services.</li> </ul>
Michigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote dementia case detection and assessment.</li> </ul>
Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize cognition as a "vital sign" and assess all Medicare patients during the Annual Wellness Visit under Medicare.</li> <li>• Partner with the Alzheimer's Association to create a website for health providers and family audiences about the importance and benefits of detection and early identification of persons with Alzheimer's.</li> <li>• Develop and post on the web a "tool box" of promising practices for physicians for detecting and diagnosing persons with Alzheimer's.</li> <li>• Investigate the econometric model developed at the University of Wisconsin that shows assessing and identifying individuals with Alzheimer's in early stages results in overall costs savings to the state.</li> <li>• Advocate for several changes that would promote cognitive detection for Alzheimer's and make it more universally available and reimbursed through health insurance, including by: (1) urging the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force to specifically deliberate on inclusion of cognitive detection; and (2) considering cognitive detection a required activity to obtain Health Care Home payments for the appropriate patient caseloads under Medicaid, private coverage, or the new Multi-Payer Advanced Primary Care Practice (MAPCP) demonstration program within Medicare.</li> </ul>

Mississippi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore educational program models to assist community gatekeepers such as clergy, bank tellers, and members of the general public with identifying individuals with cognitive impairments who are at risk in the community.</li> <li>Perform outreach education on early signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and dementia and promote the benefits of early detection and diagnosis.</li> </ul>
Missouri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote physician and health care professional educational opportunities to increase detection and diagnostic services and provide access, information, and support for newly diagnosed individuals and their families.</li> <li>Pilot statewide dementia assessments with physicians at an early point of contact through the implementation of such tools as the AD8 (as called for in Missouri Alzheimer's Innovation Grant from the Administration on Aging).</li> <li>Implement a public awareness campaign to increase early intervention and diagnosis.</li> </ul>
Montana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build strategic partnerships and develop and implement a long-term multi-pronged Alzheimer's and other dementias public awareness campaign, providing information about the earliest signs of dementia and informing how earlier diagnosis and intervention can lead to a more productive and valuable life. Partners should include the following: (1) state legislators and state agency officials; (2) healthcare providers and organizations; 3) allied health professionals; (4) non-traditional partners such as employers, bankers, financial planners, lawyers, other private sector businesses, religious and civic groups, emergency first responders, and other professionals who may have contact with persons with dementia; (5) the general public, including individuals at risk and our youth; and (6) individuals with ADRD and their caregivers and family members.</li> <li>Coordinate campaign efforts with the Native American communities and Tribal health leaders.</li> </ul>
Nebraska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify standard Alzheimer's and other dementias assessments to be conducted in conjunction with annual Medical Wellness visits in Nebraska and educate consumers on the benefits of requesting the assessments.</li> </ul>
Nevada	
New Hampshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand the Alzheimer's Early Detection Alliance of the Alzheimer's Association to include the State of New Hampshire employees and also reach community business partners, human resources departments, and employee assistance programs to make educational information available to their employees and customers.</li> <li>Develop plans for a multilingual, multicultural awareness campaign for consumers and professionals regarding the Annual Wellness Visit.</li> </ul>
New Jersey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with public and private partners to increase the availability of information about services and supports throughout the state, including private pay options, and ensure they are known, especially to family members for those at risk, about the earliest symptoms.</li> </ul>
New Mexico	
New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate physicians on the benefits of early diagnosis to ensure more complete medical records, especially when using electronic records.</li> <li>Request state agencies to post on their websites current, accurate, culturally-aware information for health care professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists and social workers, to detect and diagnose dementia in its earliest stages.</li> <li>Advise that individuals with a strong family history of Alzheimer's disease be observed by health care providers for evidence of mild cognitive impairment, which may be an indicator for the development of Alzheimer's disease.</li> <li>Share information regarding existing detection and diagnostic tools through state agency websites.</li> </ul>
North Carolina	
North Dakota	
Oklahoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include memory assessments in annual checkups for patients aged 70 and older.</li> </ul>
Oregon	

Pennsylvania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate information to primary care providers about the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit.</li> <li>• Recommend cognitive health and depression assessments in annual routine physical exams.</li> <li>• Encourage incorporation of assessment of cognitive health and depression into guidelines for medical homes, accountable care organizations, and other current and future models of care.</li> </ul>
Puerto Rico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a study of needs, to identify possible barriers to access to early diagnosis and to pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic therapies.</li> <li>• Train at least 300 health services providers on the importance of early diagnosis and how to detect Alzheimer's, and on pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies.</li> </ul>
Rhode Island	
South Carolina	
Tennessee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement screening and diagnostic services such as appropriate cognitive tests or diagnostic laboratory and/or imaging through the current medical system for any patient whose family member indicates a concern.</li> <li>• Modify the existing community needs assessment process to include questions that would identify and quantify at-risk persons with dementia, including those under 65.</li> </ul>
Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas will increase by 1,000 the number of health care professionals who integrate clinical best practices into the early detection, diagnosis and pharmaceutical treatment of persons with Alzheimer's disease.</li> <li>• Establish a statewide workgroup to develop and disseminate best practices guidelines.</li> <li>• Identify educators to provide continuing medical and nursing education presentations on clinical best practices.</li> </ul>
Texas (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with a speaker's bureau on outreach activities in rural areas.</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to present at local health care professional meetings (i.e. county medical societies, nursing district meetings).</li> <li>• Promote inclusion of best practices curriculum into medical schools, and nurse practitioner and physician assistant programs.</li> <li>• Provide guidelines to medical schools and hospital education programs through Grand Rounds and continuing medical and nursing education.</li> <li>• Collaborate with a broad spectrum of professional organizations to promote guidelines at conferences and other functions.</li> </ul>
Utah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage accurate and dignified diagnosis and proactive treatment, differentiating Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.</li> <li>• Promote use of the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit. For the detection of cognitive impairment.</li> </ul>
Vermont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with academic partners and advocacy organizations to replicate research-based models for the detection and management of dementia in the primary medical care setting.</li> </ul>
Virginia	
Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate the public about the importance and advantages of getting an early diagnosis and what to ask their health provider, including asking for a cognitive assessment when memory and/or cognitive processing issues become a concern.</li> <li>• Encourage regular screening of cognitive status for older adults in primary care settings, considering cognitive status as a "vital sign."</li> <li>• Identify and recommend several validated, brief cognitive screening tools.</li> <li>• Promote timely assessment and disclosure of cognitive impairment and/or diagnosis of dementia through the identification of a diagnostic pathway for use in primary care settings.</li> <li>• Promote understanding and effective utilization of (a) the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit, which includes objective cognitive assessment/screening; and (b) Chronic Care Management (CCM) codes for care coordination services, and advance care planning codes for individuals at the end of life.</li> <li>• Explore screening tools that may be used by Adult Protective Services, law enforcement, and other entities to identify diminished capacity and cognitive impairment.</li> </ul>
West Virginia	

Wisconsin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand capacity for dementia assessments and diagnosis, including by (1) providing training on how to assess for cognitive impairment; (2) continuing outreach to physicians; and (3) increasing referrals to the Aging and Disability Resource Centers for cognitive assessments, information, and referrals.</li></ul>
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Updated January 2017