

# factsheet

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## HOPE for Alzheimer's Act

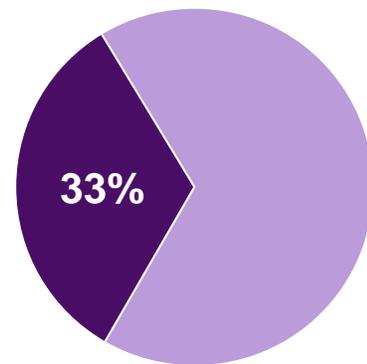
### Most people who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease are not aware of their diagnosis.

- Only about half of those with Alzheimer's disease have been diagnosed.
- Among those seniors who have been diagnosed, only 33 percent are aware they have the disease.
- Even when including caregivers, 45 percent – less than half – of those diagnosed with Alzheimer's or their caregivers are aware of their diagnosis. For other dementias, the disclosure rate is even smaller: only 27 percent.
- Comparatively, 90 percent or more of those diagnosed with cancer or cardiovascular disease, or their caregivers, are aware of the diagnosis.

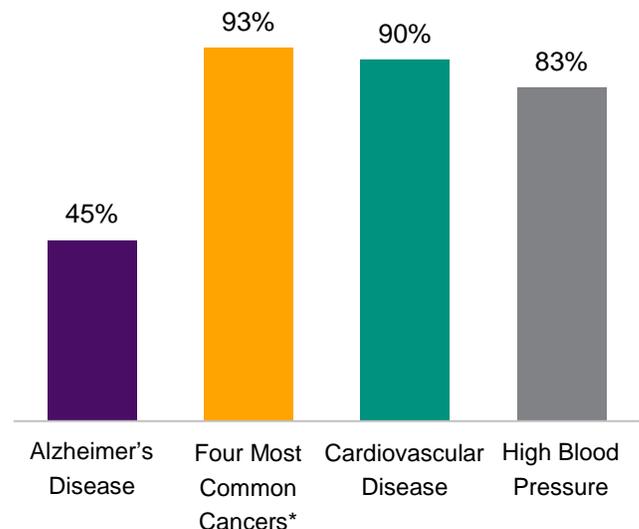
### Lack of disclosure is sometimes a result of physicians not having the time and resources to do care planning.

- Following a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, individuals and their caregivers need to be provided information about the diagnosis and available support services.
- Studies have found one of the reasons physicians do not diagnose Alzheimer's in the first place – or do not disclose a diagnosis once it is made – is because of the lack of time and resources to provide this information and support to patients and caregivers.

### Percent of Seniors Diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease Who Are Aware of the Diagnosis



### Percent of Seniors Diagnosed with Condition, or Their Caregivers, Who Are Aware of the Diagnosis



\*Breast, Lung, Prostate, and Colorectal

## Following a diagnosis of Alzheimer's, care planning is crucial to improving outcomes for the individual.

- Care planning allows newly-diagnosed individuals and their caregivers to learn about medical and non-medical treatments, clinical trials and support services available in the community – resulting in a higher quality of life for those with the disease.
- Individuals receiving care planning specifically geared toward those with dementia have fewer hospitalizations, fewer emergency room visits and better medication management.

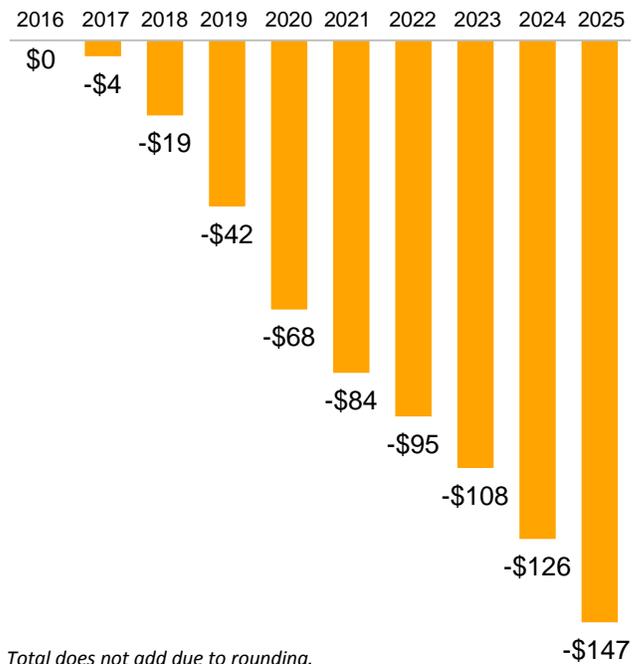
## Care planning is also critical for coordinating care and managing other chronic conditions.

- Over 85 percent of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias have one or more other chronic conditions, such as diabetes or heart disease.
- Alzheimer's disease complicates the management of these other conditions – and as a consequence increases costs. For example, a senior with diabetes and Alzheimer's costs Medicare 81 percent more than a senior who has diabetes but no Alzheimer's.

## A care planning benefit under Medicare for individuals newly-diagnosed with Alzheimer's and other dementias would save the federal government money.

- An analysis by former Congressional Budget Office (CBO) staff found over a 10-year period (2016-2025), a care planning benefit would reduce federal spending by a total of \$692 million.
- Annual savings would start small (\$4 million in 2017), but would grow each year until reaching \$147 million in 2025.

## 10-Year Decrease in Federal Spending with Medicare Dementia Care Planning Benefit = \$692 Million



## Consistent with the recommendations of the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, the Health Outcomes, Planning, and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act (S. 857 / H.R. 1559) would:*

- Provide Medicare coverage for comprehensive care planning services following a dementia diagnosis; the services would be available to both the diagnosed individual and his/her caregiver.
- Ensure that documentation of a dementia diagnosis and any care planning provided is included in an individual's medical record.
- Require the Department of Health and Human Services to educate providers about the new benefit and to identify any barriers individuals face in accessing care planning.