

Effects of Disease Management Demonstrations on Elderly Medicare Populations

CMS has conducted seven disease management (DM) demonstrations, social experiments on whether and how DM approaches by various health care providers affects the cost, access to, and the quality of care provided to groups of frail elderly with Medicare coverage. Evaluations have been conducted, results together constituting a significant body of knowledge on effects on DM programs on frail elderly Medicare populations.

Lead Agency:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Agency Mission:

The mission of CMS is to administer Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program and to promote quality of care for beneficiaries.

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Partner Agencies:

Contractors included Mathematica Policy Research, RTI International

General Description:

During the last decade, CMS has conducted seven disease management (DM) demonstrations, involving approximately 300,000 fee-for-service Medicare beneficiaries served by 35 programs. Programs include provider-based, third party, and hybrid models, located in different geographic regions across the country. CMS staff, assisted by funded contractors, have conducted evaluations of these demonstrations. These analyses constitute a significant contribution to knowledge on effects on DM programs on frail elderly Medicare populations.

Excellence: What makes this project exceptional?

The volume of high-quality work underlying the evaluations of DM on the Medicare fee-for-service population.

Significance: How is this research relevant to older persons, populations and/or an aging society?

Results improve understanding of effects of DM for frail Medicare populations and point to future research opportunities that will have direct relevance to the Medicare program.

Effectiveness: What is the impact and/or application of this research to older persons?

Research contributes to understanding of policy makers in shaping the Medicare program, which impacts cost, quality, and access to care of the elderly.

Innovativeness: Why is this research exciting or newsworthy?

Research focuses on the application of DM activities to sicker Medicare populations, whereas these DM activities were previously applied to under-age-65-populations. Thus, findings potentially improve the understanding of policy makers in shaping the Medicare program.