



CMS NEWS

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CMS announces new Medicare-Medicaid partnership with South Carolina to improve care
Initiative will provide better, more coordinated care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees

Today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new partnership with the State of South Carolina to test an initiative to improve care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees. Under the demonstration, South Carolina and CMS will contract with Medicare-Medicaid Plans to coordinate delivery of covered services for participating enrollees. Approximately 53,600 Medicare-Medicaid enrollees in South Carolina will have an opportunity to receive more coordinated care as a result of this new demonstration.

“We are excited to announce this new partnership with South Carolina, which will help us work toward the goal of better care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees,” said CMS Administrator, Marilyn Tavenner. “We look forward to working with the state to provide these beneficiaries with more coordinated, person-centered care.”

South Carolina is the ninth state to move forward with an approved demonstration. These demonstrations are designed to offer more opportunities for beneficiaries to direct their own services, be involved in care planning, and live independently in the community. Beneficiaries’ existing Medicare and Medicaid benefits will be provided through an integrated benefit design that will also include a dedicated multidisciplinary team to address each individual’s medical, behavioral, long-term supports and services, and social needs.

South Carolina’s capitated demonstration, known as Healthy Connections Prime, will leverage the state’s *Phoenix* and *Care Call* systems which provide support for management of community-based long-term services and supports. Under the demonstration, providers and case managers will also have access to these systems providing a single database of all care and notifications provided to beneficiaries related to care they receive. Through this system, each beneficiary’s care team will have easy access to a complete picture of the beneficiary, helping to ensure effective care coordination.

The demonstration is the culmination of an extensive planning and development process through which caregivers, advocates, and other stakeholders partnered with South Carolina and CMS to help shape the design of the new program.

CMS will measure quality including the beneficiary's overall experience of care, level of care coordination, beneficiary care transitions, and the support of community living in South Carolina. CMS will also support a rigorous independent evaluation of both the quality of care received by participants, as well as any impact the Demonstration has on Medicare and Medicaid costs.

To learn more about the South Carolina-CMS partnership or demonstrations in other states, visit:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-and-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination-Office/FinancialModelstoSupportStatesEffortsInCareCoordination.html>

To read a fact sheet about the South Carolina-CMS partnership, visit: <http://cms.gov/newsroom>

The memorandum of understanding outlining the South Carolina-CMS partnership can be found at:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-and-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination-Office/Downloads/SCMOU.pdf>

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