

**Independence at Home Demonstration  
Fact Sheet  
March 2014**

**Overview**

The Independence at Home Demonstration is being conducted by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, a part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The Independence at Home Demonstration is testing a service delivery and payment incentive model that uses home-based primary care teams designed to improve health outcomes and reduce expenditures for Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions. The home-based primary care teams are directed by physicians and nurse practitioners. The Independence at Home Demonstration will award incentive payments to healthcare providers who succeed in reducing Medicare expenditures and meet designated quality measures. The Independence at Home Demonstration was created by the Affordable Care Act.

**Home-Based Primary Care**

Home-based primary care allows health care providers to spend more time with their patients, perform assessments in a patient's home, and assume greater accountability for all aspects of the patient's care. This focus on timely and appropriate care is designed to improve overall quality of care and quality of life for patients served, while lowering health care costs by forestalling the need for care in institutional settings.

**Demonstration Design**

Under the Independence at Home Demonstration, selected participants, including primary care practices will provide home-based primary care to targeted chronically ill beneficiaries for a three-year period. Participating practices will make in-home visits tailored to an individual patient's needs and preferences. CMS will track the beneficiary's care experience through quality measures. The beneficiary's care will be monitored through the use of several quality measures. Practices that succeed in a consistent quality standard established through the use of meeting these quality measures while generating Medicare savings will have an opportunity to share in savings after meeting a minimum savings rate.

**Participating Practices Requirements**

The Independence at Home Demonstration is intended to encourage the delivery of high quality primary care in a home setting. As part of their application, the participating practices were required to state that they have documented experience providing home-based primary care. Participating practices include primary care practices and other multidisciplinary teams that:

- Are led by physicians or nurse practitioners
- Are organized for the purpose of providing physician services
- Have experience providing home-based primary care to patients with multiple chronic conditions
- Serve at least 200 eligible beneficiaries.

The primary care teams also include physician assistants, pharmacists, social workers, and other staff.

In addition to participation as a single practice, multiple primary care practices within a geographic area may participate as a consortium, but are treated as a single Independence at Home practice for purposes of the Demonstration.

### **Eligible Beneficiaries**

To participate in the Independence at Home Demonstration, beneficiaries must:

- Have two or more chronic conditions
- Have coverage from original, fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare
- Need assistance with two or more functional dependencies (e.g., walking or feeding)
- Have had a non-elective hospital admission within the last 12 months
- Have received acute or subacute rehabilitation services in the last 12 months

### **Financial Incentives**

The participating practices will be eligible for financial incentives if they succeed in offering high quality care that reduces costs for the Medicare program. To qualify for an incentive payment, the practice's expenditures for participating beneficiaries must be lower than the calculated target expenditure, which represents the expected Medicare FFS expenditures of participating beneficiaries in the absence of the Demonstration. Practices are required to meet stringent quality standards and ensure that financial targets are met.

### **Participating Practices**

The Innovation Center selected a total of 17 individual practices and consortia to participate in the Independence at Home Demonstration.

#### *Cohort One (Start Date June 1, 2012)*

- Boston Medical Center (Boston, Massachusetts)
- Christiana Care Health Services (Wilmington, Delaware)
- Cleveland Clinic Home Care Services: Medical Care at Home Program (Independence, Ohio)
- Comprehensive Geriatric Medicine P.C. d/b/a Doctors on Call (Brooklyn, New York)
- Doctors Making Housecalls, LLC (Durham, North Carolina)
- Housecall Providers, Inc. (Portland, Oregon)
- MD2U (Louisville, Kentucky)
- National House Call Practitioners Group (Austin, Texas)
- North Shore – Long Island Jewish Health Care Inc.: Physician House Calls Program (Westbury, New York)
- RMED, LLC (Jacksonville, Florida)
- Visiting Physicians Association, P.C. – Flint/Saginaw/Marysville (Flint, Michigan)
- Visiting Physicians Association, P.C. – Lansing/Ann Arbor (Okemos, Michigan)
- Visiting Physicians Association, P.C. – Milwaukee (West Allis, Wisconsin)
- Visiting Physicians Association of Texas, PLLC – Dallas (Irving, Texas)

#### *Cohort Two (Start Date September 1, 2012):*

- America's Disabled Homebound (Chicago, Illinois)

- Mid-Atlantic Consortium
  - Medical House Call Program at MedStar Washington Hospital Center (Washington, District of Columbia)
  - Schnabel In-Home Care Program, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
  - Virginia Commonwealth University House Calls Program (Richmond, Virginia)
- Treasure Coast Healthcare, LLC (Stuart, Florida)

### **Questions**

Questions on this demonstration may be submitted to CMS at:  
IndependenceAtHomeDemo@cms.hhs.gov

Additional information about this demonstration can be found on the Independence at Home Demonstration website at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Medicare/Demonstration-Projects/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/Medicare-Demonstrations-Items/CMS1240082.html>.