



The Alliance to Improve

M E D I C A R E

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AIM Applauds New Medicare Health Support Programs

WASHINGTON – The Alliance to Improve Medicare (AIM), a coalition of health care plans and providers and major employer organizations, believes that the new Medicare Health Support programs will improve the quality of life for chronically ill beneficiaries and provide savings to both beneficiaries and the Medicare program.

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) authorized an initiative to develop and test voluntary chronic care improvement programs to improve the quality of care and quality of life for individuals living with multiple chronic illnesses. The Medicare Health Support programs set to begin in spring 2005 were developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as part of MMA implementation.

AIM hosted a briefing today for congressional staff to learn more about the new Medicare Health Support programs.

AIM Executive Director Tracey Moorhead noted that the new health support programs will, in the initial phase, provide comprehensive care management services to nearly 180,000 Medicare beneficiaries with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and/or congestive heart failure. “These beneficiaries will receive education and assistance to improve and better coordinate their health care. The Medicare Health Support programs represent significant innovation and are a critical component of an improved, more patient-centered Medicare program.”

AIM is a coalition of organizations representing seniors, doctors, hospitals, small and large businesses, medical researchers and innovators, insurance plans and providers, and others dedicated to improving and strengthening Medicare for all Americans. AIM seeks to ensure that all senior citizens have more health care coverage choices, better benefits (including prescription drug coverage) and access to the latest in innovative medical practices and treatments.

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