

Medicare GUIDE Model

(Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience)

If your parent has Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia, Medicare's GUIDE Model may provide additional support for both the person living with dementia and their family caregiver.

Many families have never heard of this program because it is relatively new and is only available through healthcare organizations that have chosen to participate.

What is the GUIDE Model?

The GUIDE Model is a Medicare initiative designed to improve dementia care by helping families better coordinate medical care, caregiver support, education, and community services. The goal is to help people living with dementia remain safely at home longer whenever appropriate while reducing unnecessary emergency room visits and hospitalizations.

Rather than replacing your parent's current doctors, the GUIDE Model works alongside their existing healthcare team to provide additional dementia-focused care coordination and caregiver support.

Services May Include

Depending on your parent's medical needs, eligibility, and the participating healthcare organization, services may include:

Comprehensive Dementia Assessment

A thorough evaluation of the person's cognitive health, medical conditions, daily functioning, behavioral symptoms, safety concerns, and caregiver needs.

Personalized Dementia Care Plan

An individualized care plan tailored to the person's stage of dementia, medical history, goals, and support needs.

Dedicated Care Navigator or Care Coordinator

A dementia care professional who helps coordinate appointments, specialists, medications, community resources, and ongoing care.

Caregiver Education and Training

Practical education to help caregivers better understand dementia, manage behaviors, improve communication, reduce caregiver stress, and plan for future care needs.

24/7 Access to Support

How to Find Out if Your Parent Qualifies

Start by asking:

- Your parent's primary care physician
- Their neurologist or memory specialist
- Your local hospital or health system
- Large physician groups in your area

You can also contact Medicare directly:

Many participating organizations provide around-the-clock access to trained professionals who can answer urgent dementia-related questions and help families decide when emergency care may or may not be necessary.

Care Coordination

Improved communication between primary care providers, neurologists, specialists, hospitals, therapists, and community organizations.

Connection to Community Resources

Help locating local services such as:

- Adult day programs
- Transportation services
- Meal programs
- Home health services
- Support groups
- Community-based caregiver resources

Respite Care

Some eligible caregivers may receive respite services to provide temporary relief from caregiving responsibilities. Availability and the amount of respite offered vary by participating organization.

Ongoing Monitoring

Regular follow-up visits to reassess care needs as dementia progresses and to update the care plan when necessary.

Who May Be Eligible?

Eligibility is determined by the participating healthcare organization and Medicare requirements. In general:

- The person must have Medicare.
- They must have a documented diagnosis of dementia.
- They typically need an identified family member or caregiver involved in their care.
- They must receive services through a healthcare organization participating in the GUIDE Model.

RESOURCES

Medicare: [1-800-MEDICARE \(1-800-633-4227\)](https://www.medicare.gov/1-800-MEDICARE)

Official Medicare Resources

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

<https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/guide>

You can also search online for:

“CMS GUIDE Model Participating Organizations”

CMS maintains a list of participating healthcare organizations.

Important Disclaimer

Parent Care Workshop is an educational resource and is not affiliated with Medicare, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), or the GUIDE Model. We do not determine eligibility, enroll participants, or guarantee that any individual will qualify or receive services. Program availability varies by state, healthcare organization, provider participation, and Medicare requirements, and services may change over time. Always verify the most current information directly with Medicare, your parent’s healthcare provider, or a participating GUIDE Model organization before making healthcare or financial decisions.