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St. Louis-based Memory Care Home Solutions Selected by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to Test Medicare Dementia Care Model

Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model Aims to Increase Care Coordination, Support for Caregivers

TUESDAY, 29, OCTOBER 2024 – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it has chosen [Memory Care Home Solutions to participate in a new Medicare alternative payment model](#) designed to support people living with dementia and their caregivers at home in the community.

Under CMS' [Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience \(GUIDE\) Model](#), Memory Care Home Solutions will be one of almost 400 participants building Dementia Care Programs (DCPs) across the country. Memory Care Home Solutions was instrumental in advocating for insurance-covered dementia treatment that extends dignity and quality of life at home, for patients and their families.

For the first time in the history of the Medicare program, CMS is extending benefits beyond the patient to also include unpaid caregivers. Caregivers can use the benefit to cover the cost of respite care, so they can have time away from caregiving to address their own health and well-being. In another first, GUIDE also covers the cost of dementia navigation services for Medicare patients with zero out of pocket costs. This means the services already offered by Memory Care Home Solutions – services that teach caregivers skills and tactics for managing the progression of dementia at home – will now be covered by Medicare for beneficiaries living with dementia.

“For the first time ever CMS is recognizing and validating the invisible work of family caregivers,” said Jill Cigliana, Executive Director of Memory Care Home Solutions. “More than 80% of people living with dementia are cared for at home, by family and friends. Caregivers are a lifeline, and comprehensive dementia care at home keeps families together and improves the health of both the patient and family caregiver.”

“CMS is excited to partner with Memory Care Home Solutions under the GUIDE Model,” said CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. “GUIDE is a new approach to how Medicare will pay



for the care of people living with dementia. The GUIDE participants are envisioning new ways to support not only people living with dementia, but also to reduce strain on the people who care for them, so that more Americans can remain in their homes and communities, rather than in institutions.”

Launched on July 1, 2024, the GUIDE Model will test a new payment approach for key supportive services furnished to people living with dementia, including: comprehensive, person-centered assessments and care plans; care coordination; 24/7 access to an interdisciplinary care team member or help line; and certain respite services to support caregivers. People with dementia and their caregivers will have the assistance and support of a Care Navigator to help them access clinical and non-clinical services, including community resources like transportation and in-home care.

Memory Care Home Solution’s participation in the GUIDE Model will help people living with dementia and their caregivers have access to education and support, such as training programs on best practices for caring for a loved one living with dementia. The GUIDE Model also provides respite services for certain people, enabling caregivers to take temporary breaks from their caregiving responsibilities. Respite is being tested under the GUIDE Model to assess its effect on helping caregivers continue to care for their loved ones at home, preventing or delaying the need for facility care.

GUIDE Participants represent a wide range of health care providers, including large academic medical centers, small group practices, community-based organizations, health systems, hospice agencies, and other practices.

This model delivers on a promise in the Biden Administration’s Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers and aligns with the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease. For more information on CMS’ GUIDE Model, please visit: <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/guide>.

About Memory Care Home Solutions:

Memory Care Home Solutions is a St. Louis, Missouri based non-profit organization founded in 2002 to improve dignity and quality of life for people living with dementia and their families. Memory Care Home Solutions provides direct services to families including dementia navigation, in-home occupational therapy, and individual counseling for family caregivers. The organization’s vision is that all people living with dementia and their care partners will have access to an exceptional standard of care to live with dignity on their own terms.