

Jacob Harmon provided the language and information below to substantiate the possible new recommendation on physician outreach and hospital training.

Recommendation:

Collaborate with medical professionals and professional associations to develop and implement Alzheimer's and related disorders diagnosis guidelines that include referral to community based resources.

Additional Information for Consideration:

Ensure health care providers across settings are skilled and credentialed in dementia-specific care:

Create or adopt dementia-specific curricula, incorporating best of existing programs, for higher education, tailored to primary care, geriatrics, hospital care, neurology, psychiatry, psychology, nursing, social work, health care administration, and related disciplines. The curricula should include how and when to use cognitive assessments, AD progression, communication skills with diagnosed individual and care partners as part of a care team and promoting caregiver health, care planning in the context of other comorbidities including post diagnosis end of life, daily life skills for person with AD, importance of person-centered care, dementia-related behaviors, and non-pharmacologic interventions to address AD, and medication management. Include training on identifying the root cause of behavioral expressions and addressing those through an individualized strengths-based approach. Incorporate dementia-specific components into School of Public Health and other notable curricula for use with undergraduate and graduate students in public health and related fields. Ensure cultural competency is a key component of all curricula.

Require mandatory competency-based dementia-specific continuing education for all emergency room staff including hospitalists, specialists, and nurses, as a condition of participation in state-funded programs for hospitals.

Allocate funds to educate primary care physicians, other health providers, and community workers about the importance of timely detection of cognitive impairment, applying the appropriate diagnosis, and disclosing cognitive status to the patients and their care partners. Increase health care provider awareness and understanding of the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit and knowledge of validated cognitive assessment tools, through their local and state conferences.

This language was adapted from the "Report on milestones for care and support under the U.S. National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease," published in *Alzheimer's and Dementia* Vol. 12, 2016, pp. 334-369