

# Care Management: Cognitive Assessment

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# Today's Presenters

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# Objectives

- Help providers become familiar with cognitive care service
- Explain billing and coding parameters for the service
- Provide resources to help later

# CMS 2021 Final Rule

- CPT code 99483 includes the same elements included in the Level 5 E/M service CPT code 99215, such as, a comprehensive history, comprehensive exam, and high complexity medical decision-making
- CPT code 99215 is included in the definition of primary care services used for assignment
- Accordingly, we noted in the proposed rule that we believe it would be appropriate to also include CPT code 99483 in the definition of primary care services used for assignment under section 425.400(c) for the performance year starting on 1/1/2021, and subsequent performance years

# Who Should Get An Assessment

- Patients with a detected cognitive impairment such as dementia or Alzheimer's
- Patients with suspected cognitive issues

# Cognitive Assessment and Care Plan Services

- Medicare covers a visit for a cognitive assessment, and development of a plan of care for Medicare patients who show signs of cognitive impairment during their annual wellness visit or routine office visit



# Who Can Provide Cognitive Assessment

- Physicians (MD and DO)
- Nurse Practitioners
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Physician Assistants

# Where Can Assessment Be Performed

- Office
- Outpatient setting
- Private residence
- Care facility
- Rest home
- Telehealth

# Initial Plans to Address

- Neuropsychiatric symptoms
- Neurocognitive symptoms
- Functional limitations

# Cognitive Assessment and Care Plan Services - Coding and Payment

- 99483
  - 50 minutes face-to-face with the patient and Independent Historian
    - Definition of Independent Historian is provided by the AMA on page 13 of 2021 CPT manual
- CMS raised reimbursement rate beginning 2021
  - \$282 (geographic adjustments apply)
  - Deductible and coinsurance apply

# Services Included With 99483

- Examine the patient with a focus on observing cognition
- Record and review the patient's history, reports, and records
- Conduct a functional assessment of basic and instrumental activities of daily living, including decision-making capacity
- Use standardized instruments for staging of dementia like the Functional Assessment Staging Test and Clinical Dementia Rating
- Reconcile and review for high-risk medications, if applicable
- Use standardized screening instruments to evaluate for neuropsychiatric and behavioral symptoms, including depression and anxiety
- Conduct a safety evaluation for home and motor vehicle operation
- Identify social supports including how much caregivers know and are willing to provide care
- Address advance care planning and any palliative care needs

# Medicare Resources

- [Cognitive Assessment & Care Plan Services](#)
- [CMS Letter to Providers](#)
- CMS' YouTube Video
  - [Medicare Coverage and Payment of Cognitive Assessment & Care Plan Services](#)
- Information for Persons with Medicare
  - [Medicare.gov: Cognitive assessment & care plan services](#)

# Additional Resources

- Alzheimer's Association: [Medicare coverage of care planning for people with cognitive impairment](#)
- Alzheimer's Impact Movement Fact Sheet: [Use of Medicare Care Planning Benefit](#)
- Physicians Practice: [How to discuss cognitive screenings with Medicare patients](#)

# Thank You!

- Follow-up email
  - Attendees will be provided a Medicare University Course Code
- Questions?

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