

Advancing Value-Based Payment for People with Serious Illness to Align Financing with Quality: A Workshop

November 6, 2025

PURPOSE

The U.S. health care system's evolving transition to value-based payment presents unique challenges and opportunities for individuals with a serious illness who benefit from receiving coordinated care from an interdisciplinary team (e.g., doctors, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, physical therapists, nutritionists, and spiritual care experts). A planning committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will organize a one-day public workshop exploring value-based payment for serious illness care. The workshop will feature invited presentations and panel discussions on topics such as:

- The evolution of the health care financing landscape over the past 5 years and the impacts on health care quality, costs and patient outcomes for people with serious illness
- The rapid growth and variation among Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans, the MA star rating system, and the impact on the serious illness population
- Experience with Medicare's alternative payment model demonstrations (e.g., Medicare Care Choices Model and Value-Based Insurance Design) and their relevance to palliative care and serious illness care
- Innovations such as palliative care mandates in Medicaid programs
- Direct and indirect benefits of financing home health and personal care for patients, families, and caregivers for people with serious illness
- Potential strategies and policies to support the transition from fee-for-service to value-based care to ensure equitable and accessible quality care for all people living with serious illness

The planning committee will develop the agenda for the workshop sessions, select and invite speakers and discussants, and moderate the discussions. A proceedings—in brief of the presentations and discussions at the workshop will be prepared by a designated rapporteur in accordance with institutional guidelines.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

In-person: Keck Center, Room 100, 500 Fifth St NW, Washington, DC 20001

Webcast viewers [here](#).

SESSION I: **GROUNDING IN SERIOUS ILLNESS LIVED EXPERIENCES—WHY PAYMENT MODELS MATTER**

Moderator: Phillip Rodgers, Workshop Chair, University of Michigan

- Goals:
- Explore the real-world experiences of individuals and caregivers facing serious illness and how the type(s) of insurance an individual has impacts the care received.
 - Consider how health care financing decisions shape experiences for both the health system and the patient and family, and how the impacts of those decisions accumulate over time.
 - Discuss the impact of payment models on access to interprofessional palliative care – e.g., teams including different mixes of physicians, chaplains, social workers, advanced practice providers, music therapists, pharmacists, psychologists, child life specialists, grief counselors).

8:30—8:35 AM ET

Welcome and Workshop Context

Phillip Rodgers, *Workshop Chair*

Co-Chair, Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness

George A. Dean M.D. Professor and Chair of Family Medicine

Department of Family Medicine, University of Michigan

8:35—9:10 AM ET

Lived Experiences with Serious Illness

Katie Adams (*virtual*)

Person living with ALS

Deborah Laxson

Caregiver advocate, Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council

9:10—9:40 AM ET

Serious Illness Care Team Perspectives

Kesha Wall Graham

Outpatient Clinical Social Worker

Medical University of South Carolina

Corita Grudzen

Division Head, Supportive and Acute Care Services

Fern Grayer Chair in Oncology Care and Patient Experience

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Phillip Rodgers, *Workshop Chair*

Co-Chair, Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness

George A. Dean M.D., Professor and Chair of Family Medicine

Department of Family Medicine, University of Michigan

9:40—10:00 AM ET

Panel Discussion

Key Questions:

- What are your top 1 – 2 recommendations to policymakers about how payment reform could improve serious illness care?
- What are the key evidence and research gaps that need to be filled to more fully measure patient experiences?

SESSION II: UNPACKING THE MEDICARE HOSPICE BENEFIT IN THE CONTEXT OF SERIOUS ILLNESS CARE

Moderator: Joseph Shega, VITAS Healthcare

Goals:

- Discuss the evidence, history, and current regulatory context surrounding the Medicare hospice benefit, palliative care, and care at home and the role these benefits play in serious illness care.
- Examine experiences with Medicare's alternative payment model demonstrations (e.g., Medicare Care Choices Model and Value-Based Insurance Design) and their relevance to palliative care and serious illness care.
- Consider differences in hospice usage and outcomes across seriously ill populations across the United States.

10:00—10:05 AM

Introduction to the Session

Joseph Shega

Chief Medical Officer, VITAS Healthcare

10:05—10:15 AM

Bethany Snider

Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer
Everent Health

10:15—10:25 AM

Steven Landers

Chief Executive Officer
National Alliance for Care at Home

10:25—10:35 AM

Ethan McChesney

Senior Policy Director
National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation

10:35—10:45 AM

T.J. Christian

Senior Associate, Data Services and Insights
Abt Global

10:45—10:55 AM

Melissa Aldridge

Professor, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

10:55—11:30 AM

Panel Discussion

Key Questions:

- What are your top 1 – 2 recommendations to policymakers about how payment reform could improve serious illness care?
- How can payment models reflect value in the context of hospice care for the seriously ill?

11:30 AM —12:30 PM

Lunch

SESSION III: MEDICARE ADVANTAGE INNOVATIONS

Moderator: Claire Ankuda, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Goals:

- Consider the rapid growth and variation among Medicare Advantage (MA) plans and the impact on the serious illness population.
- Explore innovations in MA plans and how serious illness care can be delivered to provide value for the patient, family, and health system.

12:30—12:35 PM

Introduction to the Session

Claire Ankuda

Associate Professor, Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

12:35—12:45 PM

Wyatt Decker

Chief Physician, Innovation and Value-Based Care
UnitedHealth Group

12:45—12:55 PM

Kristofer Smith

Co-Founder, President, and Chief Medical Officer, Ruby Health
Senior Clinical Advisor, Coalition to Transform Advanced Care

12:55—1:05 PM

Bethany Snider

Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer
Everent Health

1:05—1:45 PM

Panel Discussion

Key Questions:

- What does palliative care look like in MA programs and how is quality measured?
- What could the future hold for prior authorizations for individuals with serious illness?
- What are some near- and long-term opportunities to improve the experiences and outcomes of individuals with a serious illness and their families through Medicare Advantage plans?
- What are the key evidence and research gaps that need to be filled?
- How can Medicare Advantage plans provide value for the seriously ill patient, their family, and the health system?

1:45 PM —2:00 PM

Break

SESSION IV: INNOVATIONS IN SUPPORTIVE PALLIATIVE CARE AND CARE AT HOME

Moderator: Matthew Gonzales, Institute for Human Caring, Providence

Goals:

- Explore recent innovations in financing supportive palliative care and care at home – e.g., philanthropy and state Medicaid programs.
- Consider how each effort fosters and supports access to interprofessional palliative care teams for patients with a serious illness.
- Discuss differences in access to supportive palliative care across populations.
- Consider direct and indirect benefits of financing home health and personal care for patients, families, and caregivers for people with serious illness.

2:00—2:05 PM

Introduction to the Session

Matthew Gonzales

Chief Medical Officer

Institute for Human Caring, Providence St. Joseph Health

2:05—2:15 PM

Les Biller

Founding Director

The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation

2:15—2:25 PM

Stockton Beveridge

Associate Chief Medical Officer

Imagine Pediatrics

2:25—2:35 PM

Kandyce Powell

Executive Director

Maine Hospice Council

2:35—2:45 PM

Daniel Fischberg (*virtual*)

Professor and Chief, Division of Palliative Medicine

John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawaii

University of Hawai'i

2:45—3:15 PM

Panel Discussion

Key Questions:

- What are your top 1 – 2 recommendations to policymakers about what should change in serious illness care payment policies or models?
- How can state successes be more easily/simple replicated in other states? What would you do differently if you had to build the benefits all over again?
- What are some near- and long-term opportunities to improve the experiences and outcomes of individuals with a serious illness and their families through state Medicaid programs, philanthropy, or other innovative financing mechanisms? What are the key evidence and research gaps that need to be filled?
- How can future financing arrangements provide value for the seriously ill patient, their family, and the health system?
- Based on your work and what you have heard today, where are the bright spots we should continue leaning into? Any pitfalls to avoid?

3:15 PM —3:30 PM

Break

SESSION V: A FORWARD LOOK ON MEASURING QUALITY AND ADVANCING VALUE-BASED CARE FOR SERIOUS ILLNESS

Moderator: Jessica Hausauer, National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care

- Goals:
- Look beyond expansions in access to services to explore the challenges and opportunities in measuring quality for individuals with serious illness and how these measurements could capture changes in quality of life.
 - Discuss strategies and policies to support the transition from fee-for-service to value-based care to ensure quality care for all people living with serious illness.
 - Consider where value-based care has made the most progress and had the most positive impacts on quality care for people with serious illness.
 - Discuss how value-based financing arrangements can be structured to identify and help resolve disparities in outcomes for patients with serious illness.
 - Explore the case for a payment model that supports interprofessional palliative care and how such a payment model would be connected to quality measures.

3:30—3:35 PM

Introduction to the Session

Jessica Hausauer

Chief Executive Officer

National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care

3:35—3:50 PM

Gabriel Waterman (*virtual*)

Vice President of Primary Care

SCAN Health Plan

3:50—4:05 PM

Susan O'Connor-Von

Serious illness lived experience

Associate Professor, School of Nursing

Bakken Center for Spirituality & Healing

University of Minnesota

4:05—4:30 PM

Panel Discussion

Key Questions:

- What are some near- and long-term opportunities to improve the experiences and outcomes of individuals with a serious illness and their families through state Medicaid programs, philanthropy, or other innovative financing mechanisms? What are the key evidence and research gaps that need to be filled?
- How can future financing arrangements provide value for the seriously ill patient, their family, and the health system?

SESSION VI: FINAL REFLECTIONS

Moderator: Phillip Rodgers, Workshop Chair, University of Michigan

Goal: -Planning committee members highlight key themes and opportunities raised throughout the day to advance serious illness care financing in a value-based framework.

4:30—5:00 PM

Phillip Rodgers, Workshop Chair, University of Michigan

Claire Ankuda, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Brynn Bowman, Center to Advance Palliative Care

Matthew Gonzales, Institute for Human Caring, Providence St. Joseph Health

Corita Grudzen, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Jessica Hausauer, National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care

Kashelle Lockman, Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists

Thomas Priselac, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Joseph Shega, VITAS Healthcare

Bethany Snider, Everent Health