



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Multi-Stakeholder Coalition Applauds Congress for Expanding Medicare Advantage (MA) Value-Based Insurance Design (V-BID) Demonstration to All States

Washington, DC – Today, Congress approved the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018*, which includes a provision to expand the testing of the Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID) Model to allow a Medicare Advantage plan in any state to participate in the model by January 1, 2020.

The expansion of the MA V-BID Demonstration to all states will help improve care for Medicare beneficiaries with the most complex and costly needs and help build on existing evidence indicating that appropriate reductions in out-of-pocket expenses for services with high clinical value can improve utilization of such services and improve health outcomes.

Expansion of the MA V-BID Demonstration has been a priority of the Coalition since before the V-BID Demonstration began in 2017. The Coalition worked closely with bipartisan members of the U.S. Senate to ensure that the *Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act* approved last year included an expansion of the MA V-BID Demonstration to all states by January 1, 2020. We are pleased to see that this language from the *CHRONIC Care Act* has been incorporated today as part of the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018*.

V-BID represents an opportunity to lower or eliminate patient cost-sharing to promote access to evidence-based, high-value medications and clinical services used to treat and manage chronic disease and encourage the use of high-quality providers. A growing body of peer-reviewed evidence shows that cost sharing and benefit design can play an important role in ensuring access to and appropriate utilization of high-value care. More effective management of chronic conditions, particularly when delivered as part of an integrated and coordinated program that encourages use of high-quality providers, will positively affect beneficiary health and consequently Medicare spending.

The Coalition commends Congress for expanding this critical program that will help patients with chronic illnesses more effectively manage their conditions.

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The Smarter Health Care Coalition represents a broad-based and diverse group of health care innovators, including consumer organizations, employer groups, health plans, life science companies, provider-related organizations, trade associations, academia centers and professors, and foundations.

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Our goal is to leverage our combined perspectives and experiences to achieve smarter health care that improves the patient experience, particularly through integrating benefit design innovations and consumer/patient engagement within broader delivery system reform in order to better align coverage, quality, and value-based payment goals.