

Smarter Health Care Coalition

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Friends and Colleagues,

Thank you for your continued partnership with the Smarter Health Care Coalition. The Coalition adapted quickly to a new virtual world in 2020 and continued to advance thought leadership around bipartisan, pragmatic policy to improve the patient experience. The twin public health and economic crises will accelerate the importance of our work to reduce financial barriers to high-value care for a new administration and Congress. Our full strategic plan for 2021 and the Coalition's recent letter to the Biden Administration's transition team are available [here](#).

In 2020, the Coalition focused on five policy areas:

1. **Improving Health Savings Account-Eligible High Deductible Health Plans**
2. **Extending Flexibility of Uniformity Requirements in Medicare Part D**
3. **Reducing Low-Value, Harmful Care**
4. **Expanding V-BID in Medicare Advantage**
5. **Mitigating Social Determinants of Health**

Centered around these priorities, we hosted a widely attended Summit on Capitol Hill, published issue briefs, conducted virtual briefings and worked closely with champions in Congress and the administration to advance our policy goals. On the following pages, you'll find highlights from our year. We look forward to continuing and building upon this agenda in 2021.

Smarter Health Care
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020

1. Improving Health Savings Account-Eligible High Deductible Health Plans

- The Coalition continued work with Congress and the administration to expand the chronic disease prevention safe harbor for Health Savings Account-eligible high deductible health plans. In 2020, our Congressional champions reintroduced the Chronic Disease Management Act to reflect guidance issued by Treasury in 2019 that for the first time expressly allowed insulin and other drugs and services to prevent the worsening of chronic conditions to be offered pre-deductible. We look forward to continuing this important work with the Biden Administration and the new Congress.

2. Extending Flexibility of Uniformity Requirements in Medicare Part D

- The Coalition supports injecting value-based design principles into the Medicare Advantage program by lowering cost-sharing for Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Part D by extending flexibility in “uniformity rule requirements” to Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans. We worked with Congressional champions, who authored an amendment allowing this expanded flexibility during the Prescription Drug Price Reduction Act consideration.

3. Reducing Low-Value, Harmful Care

- The Coalition sought to increase awareness about the incidence of low-value care. We co-authored an [op-ed](#) in the Hill on high and low-value care in the COVID era. Further, we co-hosted a [webinar](#) with the V-BID Center on low-value care, featuring Dr. Michael Chernew, the Chair of MedPAC.

4. Expanding V-BID in Medicare Advantage

- The Coalition continued to work closely with CMMI to ensure the V-BID demonstration is successful and recommended improvements to the model. CMMI reports an increase in participation for 2021.

5. Mitigating Social Determinants Of Health

- The Coalition wrote and disseminated a [white paper](#) on the intersection of value-based insurance design and social determinants of health. We also hosted a round table on the role of employer benefits and social determinants of health. This work seeks to align innovation in benefit design with the recognition that non-health factors contribute significantly to patient outcomes.



2020 POLICY SUMMIT

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M | V-BID

On January 29, the Smarter Health Care Coalition hosted its annual policy summit: ***Policy, Politics, and Progress: Improving the Patient Experience through Value-based Insurance Design*** in partnership with the University of Michigan V-BID Center.

Stephen Parente of President Trump's Council of Economic Advisers provided a keynote address on the future of value-based insurance design and a diverse group of panelists explored how benefit design can address social needs and the importance of decreasing low-value care.

Dr. Mark Fendrick, Director of the University of Michigan V-BID Center, concluded the event with "V-BID 2020: Expanding Coverage of Essential Clinical Care Without Increasing Premiums or Deductibles".

[Full Agenda](#)

[Presentation Slides](#)

[V-BID Policy
Infographic](#)



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