

Reviewing 2021 and Strategizing 2022

Despite the continued COVID-19 global pandemic, the Smarter Health Care Coalition has been hard at work in 2021. Below is a recap of recent successes – made possible by the impressive breadth and diversity of our membership and your hard work – in addition to our areas of focus for next year. As you can see, we made considerable progress (the check marks), yet much work remains (the circles we hope to turn into check marks with your help and support next year). We are counting on your continued engagement to help us build on our bipartisan track record to ensure greater access to high-value care for Americans and their families.

Expanding Pre-Deductible Coverage of Chronic Disease Prevention

- ✓ Advocated to Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service the need to allow more chronic disease prevention to be offered pre-deductible in Health Savings Account-eligible plans, which resulted in [Notice 2019-45](#)
- ✓ Worked with SHCC members to educate employers and health plans about the new flexibility, and we are thrilled to report between 75-80% of surveyed health plans expanded coverage and 76% of surveyed employers expanded coverage
 - Conduct a follow up AHIP/SHCC survey in 2022
- ✓ Sent a [letter](#) to the Administration raising awareness about the overwhelming, positive response to Notice 2019-45 + asked Treasury and IRS for additional flexibility, especially allowing employers and plans to cover mental and behavioral health pre-deductible
 - Request and conduct meeting with Treasury and IRS to discuss further
 - Recruit congressional champions to send a similar letter
 - Spearhead a broad, stakeholder letter open to non-SHCC members to underscore the connection between chronic disease and mental health
- ✓ Sent a [letter](#) to Finance Committee staff + bipartisan congressional champions of [S. 1424](#) and [H.R. 3563](#), the Chronic Disease Management Act ([reintroduced this year](#)), that enacting CDMA would allow more mental and behavioral health pre-deductible, expanding access to these critical drugs and services
 - Host a virtual policymaker briefing on the need for Congress to enact the Chronic Disease Management Act in 2022, include a patient + business that expanded pre-deductible coverage and underscore the need for additional flexibility CDMA provides
 - Continue additional advocacy to advance CDMA + lean in on the connection between chronic disease and mental and behavioral health

Addressing Social Determinants of Health

- ✓ Published a [white paper](#) outlining the intersection of benefit design with opportunities for addressing social determinants of health
- ✓ Conducted two working group sessions to further flesh out policy proposals, especially related to social needs assessment research
- ✓ [Championed](#) removing benefit design barriers that prevent plans from addressing SDOH by supporting the 13 bills presented in [the E&C hearing: "Empowered by Data: Legislation to Advance Equity and Public Health"](#)
 - Recruit Hill champions to introduce and advance legislation aimed at eliminating benefit design barriers

Decreasing the Prevalence of Low-Value Care

- ✓ Sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Becerra highlighting existing authority to reduce the provision of low-value care in the Medicare program, outlined three specific policy proposals
 - Request and conduct meeting with CMS or CMMI staff to discuss policy proposals
- ✓ Nearing completion on a white paper outlining policy options to reduce low-value care
 - Recruit members of Congress to champion legislation that will reduce low-value care
 - Host a virtual policymaker briefing featuring the legislation

Expanding the Medicare Advantage Demonstration Program

- ✓ Hosted a CMMI presentation providing an update on the CMS V-BID demonstration program
 - Continue working with CMMI and plans to expand awareness of the V-BID demo
 - Work with Hill champions to extend flexibilities to Part D that allow Medicare Advantage plans participating in the V-BID demonstration to alter cost sharing and extend supplemental benefits to more beneficiaries

Protecting and Expanding Value-Based Payment & Benefit Design

- ✓ Sent a [letter](#) of support for two vaccine bills which would make it easier for more people in Medicare and Medicaid to learn about and gain access to high value vaccines
 - Continue monitoring [Kelley v. Becerra](#), the lawsuit to strike down the ACA's coverage requirement related to preventive services without cost-sharing