

The Medicare Map . . .

Medicare expands coverage of Alzheimer's drugs . . . with some restrictions

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced a new proposal to cover certain Alzheimer's medications under Part B of Medicare.

"If the FDA grants <u>traditional</u> approval CMS is prepared to ensure anyone with Medicare Part B who <u>meets the criteria</u> is covered", according to a statement by CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure.

NOTE: The drug Leqembi looks to be the first in this class to potentially be covered, possibly as soon as July. Leqembi and Aduhelm have received *accelerated* approval from the FDA. This new proposal requires *traditional* FDA approval.

Additional Medicare eligibility is based on CMS' National Coverage Determination criteria:

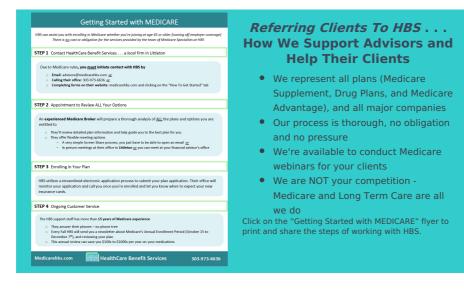
- 1. Be enrolled in Medicare Part B
- 2. Be diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or early dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease, **and**
- 3. Have a qualified physician participating in a *registry,* that collects and reports how the drug works in the real world (through a CMS-facilitated portal)

(The Alzheimer's Association has called the registries "an unnecessary barrier" and extra red tape for patients to access the drug)

Given over 5 million Medicare beneficiaries suffer from Alzheimer's disease, all eyes will be tracking this proposal and looking for positive outcomes for this deserving population.

Click here for the CMS press release

https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-plan-ensure-availability-new-alzheimers-drugs



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Feel free to forward The Medicare Map monthly newsletter to other advisors you think would benefit from the services of Tammey and her team.



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