



## Spotlight: Minnesota's Senior Health Options Program Improves Outcomes for Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees

A new [report](#) for the Department of Health and Human Services' Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation evaluates outcomes from the Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO) program. MSHO started as a pilot in 1997 to better serve dually eligible beneficiaries age 65 and older. Health plans coordinate all of their members' Medicare and Medicaid benefits, including Medicaid long-term services and supports. The analysis, conducted by RTI International, evaluated MSHO's outcomes from 2010 to 2012 by comparing the experiences of similar beneficiaries inside and outside of MSHO and found that MSHO enrollees were:

- 48 percent less likely to have a hospital stay, and those who were hospitalized had 26 percent fewer stays;
- 6 percent less likely to have an outpatient emergency department visit, and those who did visit an emergency department had 38 percent fewer visits; and
- 13 percent more likely to receive home and community-based long term care services.

Minnesota is partnering with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to test new ways of improving care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees through the MSHO program. Along with Minnesota's Medicare Advantage Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans, the state and CMS are improving beneficiary experience through increased alignment of Medicare and Medicaid program administration, increased federal-state data sharing, and streamlining of beneficiary materials.

The evaluation findings suggest that adopting fully integrated care models similar to MSHO may have merit for other states and the potential to improve health and health care outcomes for dually eligible beneficiaries.

### ABOUT THE INTEGRATED CARE RESOURCE CENTER

The *Integrated Care Resource Center* is a national initiative of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to help states improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of care for individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The state technical assistance activities are coordinated by Mathematica Policy Research and the Center for Health Care Strategies. For more information, visit <http://www.integratedcareresourcecenter.com>.

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