



Spotlight: First Annual Evaluation Report for Washington’s Financial Alignment Initiative Demonstration

Yesterday CMS released the [first annual evaluation report](#) of early results from Washington’s Health Home managed fee-for-service demonstration under the Medicare-Medicaid Financial Alignment Initiative.

The Washington demonstration leverages Medicaid health homes to test new mechanisms to coordinate services across Medicare and Medicaid for Washington State Medicare-Medicaid enrollees, and allows the state and the federal government to share in savings resulting from quality improvements.

The results in this report are based on experience during the first demonstration performance period, from July 2013 to December 2014. The report includes qualitative and limited quantitative reporting related to demonstration implementation, enrollment data, beneficiary experience, and Medicare utilization and costs for the eligible population.

Also included in this report are findings also released in an Issue Brief earlier this year, showing a reduction of \$21.6 million in Medicare spending relative to a comparison group and representing more than 6 percent savings. The report also includes early quality and utilization results, eligibility and enrollment data, characteristics of the population eligible for the demonstration, beneficiary focus group findings, and a discussion of the initial implementation experience.

While many of these findings are preliminary, they provide important information that states and stakeholders can use to understand demonstration performance and further improve the experience of care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees.

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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