

# 2024 PAYER SUMMIT

## Event Summary



The aging of the U.S. population means an unprecedented and growing number of people require dementia care and support. According to the Alzheimer's Association® [2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures](#) report, more than 6 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's, and by 2050 this number is projected to increase to nearly 13 million. Eleven million people are providing unpaid care to family members and friends living with dementia. In 2022, unpaid caregivers provided an estimated 18 billion hours of care valued at \$339.5 billion. Last year, Alzheimer's and other dementias cost the nation an estimated \$345 billion, and by 2050, these costs could rise to nearly \$1 trillion.

To help health plans and payers address future concerns – including population management, value-based propositions, disease modifying therapeutics and non-pharmacological care and management – the Alzheimer's Association convened a Payer Summit on Jan. 9, 2024 in Arlington, Virginia. Summit participants discussed challenges and potential opportunities to increase their capacity to deliver high-quality, cost-effective clinical care, and improve early, timely and accurate diagnosis.

The summit welcomed 55 attendees, including representatives from 12 unique health plans (representing over 50% of the total market), and two key health plan trade organizations (representing over 90% of all payers) to address the impact of and solutions for members with Alzheimer's or other dementia. The attendees ranged in clinical policy management roles, including clinical medical director, managed long-term care support services and pharmaceutical and therapeutic committee leaders, among others.

The inaugural Alzheimer's Association Payer Summit gave health plans and payers the opportunity to hear the experience of patients, physicians and caregivers, and delve into the progress in early detection, non-pharmacological care and treatment. Attendees also discussed the strategy for collaboration between payers and the Association. Below are key takeaways from the sessions and workgroup discussions.

## Session Takeaways

### Session 1: Reality — Patient, Caregiver, Physician Perspective

- Alzheimer's disease affects all populations. Early detection is critical for establishing the continuum of care for people living with Alzheimer's to help alleviate the impact it has on them and their caregivers.
- Care for patients with chronic diseases should include management of brain health.
- Families and caregivers carry a heavy burden and need to be considered in health plan solutions.
- There are populations that are more adversely affected by Alzheimer's and other dementia. It is important to provide additional attention to help these individuals learn about and benefit from advancements in treatment.

### Session 2: Early Detection and Brain Health

- Promising strategies that seek to mitigate the onset of Alzheimer's disease through risk reduction are being tested in progressive health plans.
- Innovative health systems are conducting outreach in underserved communities to address social determinants of health (SDOH) and support improved health outcomes.
- Data demonstrates that early detection and risk reduction create a value proposition that benefits both health plans and contracted primary care providers.

### Session 3: Solutions — Value-based Care and Innovations

- There are innovative digital solutions for screening and early detection that can be integrated into practice.
- Value-based strategies for dementia care can increase performance on health outcomes.
- Innovative care models, such as the Care Ecosystem (CE) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model, can be adapted to the payer's current care management infrastructure.

### Keynote: Treatment Today and in the Future — The State of the Science

- Overview of the latest developments in monoclonal antibody treatments for Alzheimer's disease..
- Focus on blood biomarkers for tau and amyloid, and when they may be an option in the clinic.
- Explanation of genetic risk factors (APOE4), the potential side effect amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA) and their impact on treatment administration and monitoring.



## Workgroup Highlights

### Build trust and relationships proactively through public education

- Drive the development of culturally-competent solutions by focusing on SDOH to support the needs of caregivers and individuals living with Alzheimer's disease.
- Promote brain health education in the earlier stages of life (i.e., elementary, middle and high school) to encourage healthier habits.

### Focus on early detection

- Build policies on mandatory cognitive screening during annual wellness visits and standardize clinician education on early detection and diagnosis.
- Collaborate with the Alzheimer's Association on public awareness campaigns to encourage health plan members and their families to seek care when signs of memory loss first appear.

### Standardize person-centered care through care navigation

- Develop a practice standard for providing care navigation from diagnosis to end of life.
- Foster a collaborative practices approach across disciplines and care settings.

### Leverage existing data and improve data collection

- Engage the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) to establish quality metrics and standards.
- Focus on the intersection of early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and menopause research.
- Collect and leverage data to meet community needs and escalate health concerns to health plans and payers.

*"For many of us, the experience is all too personal. As you leave this summit, I hope that you will take away the **desire to provide reimbursement for early detection and diagnosis** of Alzheimer's and other dementias."*



**Richard "Dick" Smith**  
National Early-Stage Advisor  
Alzheimer's Association

The summit provided a valuable opportunity to bring together health plans and payers, clinical leaders and industry stakeholders to understand the state of the science as it relates to brain health and dementia. The Association will continue to engage payer summit attendees with relevant resources available to members, staff and contracted physicians in network:

- **Health Systems:** Increase the quality of care delivered to members.
- **Community:** Add value to a payer's market presence through volunteer opportunities, such as the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®.
- **Health Services Research:** Identify opportunities for collaboration to understand cost, quality and utilization trends to influence better policies related to detection, treatment, care and quality of life.
- **Professional Education Opportunities:** Engage payers through a dementia science webinar series and reconvene at future summit meetings.

## Proud Supporters



Robert F. Marino in loving memory of Frank J. & Juanita L. Marino

Kristi Meyer in remembrance of Anna Mae Brune Bullen

Susan and Derek van Amerongen

## Contact

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## Resources for Professionals

The Alzheimer's Association partners with medical experts to address the rising costs of dementia care and improve patient experience and outcomes along the way. By collaborating with the Association, networks will gain the knowledge necessary to make timely diagnosis and treatment plans, reducing more expensive hospitalizations and allowing more effective management of costs.

Visit [alz.org/professionals](http://alz.org/professionals) for more information, education and resources.

## Resources for Patients and Caregivers

The Alzheimer's Association provides information and resources for those living with or caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other dementias, including [alz.org](http://alz.org) and the 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900).

Visit [alz.org/publications](http://alz.org/publications) for downloadable resources about a wide range of topics related to Alzheimer's and other dementia.