ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

HEALTH CARE SUMMIT

Advancing Quality and Innovation



Event Overview

To help health plans and health systems advance quality brain health and dementia care to effectively build on rapid innovation in science and technology, the Alzheimer's Association® convened the Health Care Summit: Advancing Quality and Innovation in Houston on October 6-7, 2026. The Summit brought together more than **180 cross-industry leaders from health plans, Accountable Care Organizations, health systems, hospitals, provider medical groups, technology companies, government, national provider organizations, and industry partners as well as 14 sponsors.** National leaders delivered plenary and breakout sessions to align on the strategies, opportunities and barriers to advancing Alzheimer's and related dementias (ADRD) care.

EVENT THEMES

Innovation in Science and Technology

Scientific and technological innovation are outpacing the reimbursement models, clinical workflows, and data infrastructure required to put it into practice.

- If harnessed effectively, advances in early detection — including blood-based biomarkers, technology and AI — can equip primary care physicians with actionable clinical information at the point of care to support timely diagnosis.
- Data and technology-enabled workflows and EHR interoperability are foundational needs in order to capitalize on innovation.
- Shared data elements and standards to harmonize information across community organizations, health systems and others furthers coordination across settings.

The time is now to build on current innovation; to keep pace, health plans and health systems will need technology-enabled workflows, tools, and implementation support.

Workforce Capacity

Timely diagnosis and treatment depend on a workforce equipped with the training, time, and tools to act, and on removing structural barriers to access.

- Beyond clinical guidelines, primary care providers need the time, confidence and training to initiate risk reduction conversations.
- To expand access and equity, expand workforce models and policy alliances that reduce disparities in time to diagnosis, especially in rural areas.
- Define the broader care team roles with expanded innovative care models that credential non-physician providers to help close capacity gaps.

Primary care provider education, training, tools and workflows along with expanded workforce strategies are crucial to overcome barriers due to limited specialist access and rural health challenges for risk reduction and timely ADRD diagnosis and treatment.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

Quality Brain Health and Dementia Care

Expanded reimbursement, clinical pathways and tools are essential for the advancement of quality brain health and dementia care with inclusion of caregivers as an essential part of the care dyad.

- Expand aligned reimbursement models to support the full continuum of ADRD care: effective risk reduction, early detection, diagnosis and treatment and comprehensive care and management.
- Develop clear, credentialed referral pathways as the critical front door to timely diagnosis.
- Care plans that effectively address the person living with dementia's full set of health conditions, proactive care coordination/navigation and clinical intervention as key priorities for improved quality and avoidable utilization.
- Building connections to community resources and sustained support for caregivers over time that improves their health and enables people to remain at home or in the lowest level of care the longest.

Aligned reimbursement that supports comprehensive brain health and dementia care that includes caregiver support to improve quality and decrease avoidable utilization.







Action Steps

Now is the time to focus on brain health, Alzheimer's and dementia.
Access linked presentations in the **meeting agenda** (PDF), and download **resources from the Alzheimer's Association**.

Stay connected!
Email **healthcaresummit@alz.org** to hear about next year's Health Care Summit and submit presentation proposals.

> "I know the Alzheimer's Association well, **but this was the first time** I really threaded all the strategy together of the work you do."
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> - Health Care Summit attendee