

# AMERICAN ACADEMY of HOME CARE MEDICINE

## **The Nation's Most Chronically Ill Medicare Beneficiaries Are One Step Closer to Receiving their Primary Medical Care at Home Covered through Medicare**

**For Immediate Release**

Chicago, IL (December 18, 2015) The Academy of Home Care Medicine (AAHCM) applauds the Senate Finance Committee's group on chronic care and Senators Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Mark Warner (D-VA), in particular, for the release of its Chronic Care Options Paper that includes that includes expanding the current Independence at Home demonstration into a "permanent, nationwide program" for Medicare beneficiaries.

AAHCM has been a key advocate for the IAH Demonstration from its inception and during its extension this year. In fact, AAHCM spearheaded the advocacy efforts to extend the demonstration for two additional years through bipartisan legislation passed by unanimous votes in both the House and Senate and signed into law by President Obama on July 31, 2015.

"Independence at Home is a care coordination program that is targeted, proven and ready for a nation that wants and needs this care," says Dr. Mindy Fain, President. "AAHCM looks forward to the conversion of IAH through national legislation to expand and better serve the 1.4 million seniors who need home-based primary care."

IAH is state-of-the art, mobile health care at home provided by a team of primary care providers and case management targeted to a group of our nation's sickest seniors. A purely voluntary program, the Demonstration gives these seniors the chance to "age in place," in their own homes and avoid the need for emergency services, hospitalizations and nursing home stays,



while saving money for the Medicare program.

The IAH Demonstration project's results show evidence that the model simultaneously provides high quality and lower costs. The press release from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on the first year results showed that 17 programs with approximately 8,400 high cost beneficiaries saved over \$25 million, an average of over \$3,070 per patient.

In releasing the results, CMS Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt stated, "These results support what most Americans already want—that chronically ill patients can be better taken care of in their own homes. This is a great common-sense way for Medicare beneficiaries to get better quality care with smarter spending from Medicare."

A large body of evidence spanning over 20 years in all 50 states & D.C., including two major peer-reviewed studies\*, shows that Home-Based Primary Care enhances quality of care & reduces cost for chronically ill patients. IAH is broadly supported by many patient and provider groups including physicians, nurse practitioners, social workers, and patient organizations.

The American Academy of Home Care Medicine is the nation's leader in advancing the art, science, and practice of medicine in the home. For additional information regarding the Academy and the benefits of home care medicine, visit [www.aahcm.org](http://www.aahcm.org).

\*Edes T, Kinosian B, Vuckovic NH, Nichols LO, Becker MM, Hossain M. Better access, quality, and cost for clinically complex veterans with home-based primary care. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2014;62(10):1954-1961. doi:10.1111/jgs.13030.

\*De Jonge KE, Jamshed N, Gilden D, Kubisiak J, Bruce SR, Taler G. Effects of home-based primary care on Medicare costs in high-risk elders. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2014;62(10):1825-1831. doi:10.1111/jgs.12974.

**Media contact:**

Peggy Tighe

[peggy.tighe@ppsv.com](mailto:peggy.tighe@ppsv.com) or 202-872-6752