



Society for Public Health Education's

18TH ANNUAL ADVOCACY SUMMIT

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID INNOVATION (CMMI)

REQUEST: As part of the FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill, direct the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to include testing of payment and service delivery model that includes health education specialists in the delivery of interventions for reducing health disparities, consistent with the cost and quality criteria otherwise applicable to the testing of models under such section. CMMI tests innovative payment and delivery system models that show promise of maintaining or improving the quality of care or slow the rate of growth in program costs in Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The Secretary of HHS acting through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation under section 1115A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a) shall provide for the testing of a payment and service delivery model that includes health education specialists in the delivery of interventions for reducing health disparities in all populations, consistent with the cost and quality criteria otherwise applicable to the testing of models under such section.

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) is a component of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that was established in the Affordable Care Act to test innovative payment and delivery system models that show promise of maintaining or improving the quality in Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Three goals of CMMI are to slow the rate of growth in program costs, test twenty models specified as priority in the law, including medical homes, all-payer payment reform, and arrangements that transition from fee-for-service reimbursement to global fees and salary-based payment, and overcome inertia in the healthcare system by creating a mechanism for the diffusion of successful pilot programs.

What is a Health Education Specialist?

Health Education Specialist (HES) is a distinct occupation recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor (SOC 21-1091). HES develop and implement strategies to improve the health of individuals, families and communities. The HES profession has been in existence since the turn of the century, and at a minimum, HES have a bachelor's degree and many have advanced degrees or certification. The Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) designation signifies that an individual has met eligibility requirements for and has

successfully passed a competency-based examination demonstrating skill and knowledge of the Seven Areas of Responsibility of Health Education Specialists, upon which the credential is based. MCHES, the master's level of certification, includes a set of advanced eligibility requirements.

CMMI Study of HES in Improving Health Care and Eliminating Health Disparities

HES have training and expertise in behavior modification, cultural competency, policy/systems change, community engagement, and bridging health care and community resources to help address root causes of racial/ethnic health disparities in rural and urban communities.

Despite extensive studies of HES interventions, limited cost and economic data are available. Studying the inclusion of HES in CMMI care models and payment approaches represents a new opportunity to reduce health disparities and improve the quality of health and health care. It also will ensure that the lessons learned and best practices identified during the test can be spread as widely and effectively as possible to support improvement for both CMS and the health care system at large.

Implementing the Studies Nationwide

Every test of a new service delivery or payment model developed by CMMI also includes a plan of action to ensure that the lessons learned and best practices identified during the test can be spread as widely and effectively as possible to support improvement for both CMS and the health care system at large. CMMI has also created learning collaboratives for providers in the models to promote broad and rapid dissemination of evidence and best practices that have the potential to deliver higher quality and lower cost care. Evaluation results are shared with participating providers on an ongoing basis in order to promote more rapid learning.