

Hello,

As you may be aware, through the <u>Biden Cancer Moonshot</u>, **President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden have prioritized supportive services for people who are touched by cancer, including by championing the importance of patient navigation services**. Navigators guide families through every step of their cancer journey. Navigation has been shown to improve health outcomes and the patient experience by reducing times between diagnosis and treatment and by increasing treatment completion. These services lower healthcare costs by reducing emergency room visits and hospitalizations. They also reduce health disparities by facilitating access to services such as food, housing, and transportation to address unmet health-related social needs.

For patients undergoing stem cell transplant or receiving cell therapies, navigators can be especially helpful. They can provide context about a long, often complex treatment process while also serving as a touchpoint for day-to-day questions and care coordiation.

With leadership from the First Lady, as of January 1, 2024, the Biden Cancer Moonshot <u>delivered six new codes</u> to report navigation services for payment. These codes include:

- The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Principal Illness Navigation (PIN) services (HCPCS codes G0023 and G0024). These codes describe services focused on removing barriers to care, including care coordination, health education, patient self-advocacy skills, and health system navigation, and facilitating access to community-based social services to address unmet social determinants of health, such as food and housing insecurity and transportation needs.
- The American Medical Association (AMA) Principal Care Management codes (CPT codes 99424 99427). The AMA issued <u>updated guidance</u> on the appropriate use of CPT codes, which are used by all insurers in reporting clinical navigation services. Clinical navigation focuses on clinical care, coordination, and education, and is typically provided by clinical staff, including nurses and licensed clinical social workers.

Last month, First Lady Jill Biden convened executives from leading health insurance companies, community health plans, and health plan professional associations to highlight <u>recent commitments</u> to expanding access to navigation services to help patients and their families navigate health care treatments for cancer and other serious illnesses. The companies—Aetna, a CVS Health company; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota; Elevance Health; Health Alliance Plan; Humana; Priority Health; and Select Health—serve more than 150 million Americans and commit to cover navigation services for cancer patients. Joined by 40



comprehensive cancer centers and community oncology practices, these health insurers committed to:

- **Provide and cover navigation services** using appropriate coding, including CPT codes 99424–99427, and, as applicable, HCPCS codes G0023–G0024, as well as tracking utilization and reimbursement metrics for these codes.
- **Capture utilization of navigation codes** across patient demographics, including but not limited to geography, race and ethnicity, and sex and gender, where available.
- **Track associated health outcomes** of patients who are benefitting from navigation services, such as number of emergency room and urgent care visits, available patient-reported outcomes, and other care quality and experience measures.
- **Support the provision of evidence-based navigation services** to patients and caregivers in accordance with the Oncology Navigation Standards of Professional Practice, which describe the knowledge and practices navigators should provide in order to deliver high-quality, competent, and ethical services to people affected by cancer.

Hospitals, hospital-outpatient departments, community cancer centers, oncology providers and more are critical to expanding navigation services in support of the Cancer Moonshot goal of ending cancer as we know it.

We hope you will join us in using the codes to make critical navigation services available to patients and families. We want to hear from you – please share your <u>Actions</u>, <u>Ideas & Stories</u>, and learn more by visiting <u>whitehouse.gov/cancermoonshot</u>.

Best, Biden Cancer Moonshot