

Section 648 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) requires the Secretary to establish demonstration projects to evaluate methods to improve the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries with chronic conditions and that reduce Medicare expenditures, including methods to permit Medicare beneficiaries to direct their own health care needs and services. Prior to initiation of these demonstrations, the Secretary is required to evaluate best practices used by group health plans, State Medicaid programs, the private sector or other areas for methods that allow patients to self-direct the provision of personal care services. The Secretary is required to initiate these demonstrations not later than two years after enactment, and Reports to Congress are required beginning two years after projects begin. The Secretary is required to evaluate clinical and cost effectiveness of the demonstrations. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) are jointly designing this demonstration.

(See downloads area for more information: Legislative Language, Best Practices Report, Contact Information)