



NAMD Urges CMS to Ensure the High Costs of New Alzheimer's Therapies with Questionable Efficacy Are Not Shifted to States

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2021

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Washington DC - On behalf of the nation's Medicaid Directors, the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) today called on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to act swiftly to resolve the health and budgetary concerns around the approval of a new Alzheimer's drug, Aduhelm. Without action, as NAMD stated in its [letter to Administrator Brooks-LaSure](#), Medicaid programs across the country will be compelled to waste scarce resources on a drug that won't improve outcomes for patients and families struggling with the impacts of this disease.

NAMD noted that in the case of Aduhelm, the federal government is simultaneously approving a new Alzheimer's drug that is so unproven and expensive that its own Medicare program might actually refuse to cover it. At the same time, the Medicaid program would be required to cover that same drug in most cases setting up a dire budget situation for states.

Based on preliminary cost projections from 19 states, NAMD estimates that, if Medicare chooses not to fully cover this product, total state and federal Medicaid spending on Aduhelm will increase by 250% nationally, with spending increases in some states ranging as high as 500%. NAMD called on CMS to act to mitigate this risk to Medicaid's ability to provide high-quality, evidence-based, and sustainable services to the populations served by the program.

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The National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) is a bipartisan, nonprofit, professional organization representing leaders of all Medicaid agencies across the country. NAMD represents, elevates and supports state and territorial Medicaid leaders to deliver high value services to the millions of people served by Medicaid and CHIP so they can achieve their best health and thrive in their communities.