

## RESEARCH BRIEFING

# “Understanding the Perspectives of Key Stakeholders toward Medicare’s Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) in the US”

### HIGHLIGHTS:

Researchers found four major themes in their interviews including:

- ▶ Stakeholders, regardless of type or location, demonstrated significant differences in their feelings and understanding of the Home Health Value Based Purchased (HHVBP) program;
- ▶ Potential impacts and consequences for home health agencies and patients;
- ▶ Numerous different tools and approaches for home health agencies in the HHVBP model; and
- ▶ How HHVBP fits within the broader delivery of care and payment systems.

### OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH

Researchers interviewed key leaders in home health, home health agency staff, and clinicians on attitudes regarding the Home Health Value Based Purchasing program (HHVBP), both during those initially included in the nine state pilot and then the remaining 41 states.

### RESULTS

Within the four major themes, opinions were relatively split amongst participants with concerns about the potential impacts for patients being a top cited worry. Stakeholders specifically cited the ability to care for high-risk patients and access to care as major concerns with the current implementation of HHVBP.

Agencies are responding to the nationwide HHVBP rollout using different strategies. Some of the strategies used included, town halls, adding clinical managers, new workflow plans for clinicians, providing OASIS scores and outcomes directly to clinicians, and more.

Given the workforce challenges and integration of concurrent payment and care models, stakeholders expressed concerns about being able to successfully navigate HHVBP. Stakeholders feel stretched with the post-COVID staffing shortages and the implementation of the Patient Drive Groupings Model (PDGM), and expressed confusion on how HHVBP would integrate with the rise in Medicare Advantage patients.

Impact for Home Health Care: As the HHVBP program enters its fourth year, understanding the attitudes and knowledge of stakeholders in home health care is vital to being able to successfully navigate the program. This research demonstrates that there are still critical knowledge gaps in understanding HHVBP and tools needed to successfully provide care within the model.

Members of the team were involved in a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Technical Expert Panel on HHVBP. Findings from the TEP meeting in Fall 2023 informed performance measures included in the FY2025 Home Health Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule.

## WHERE TO READ MORE

Espinosa CG, Lucas T, Kern LM, Jones CD, Mroz T, Arbaje AI, Ankuda C, Taveras YH, Feldman P, Thompson MP, Sterling MR. Understanding the Perspectives of Key Stakeholders toward Medicare's Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) in the US. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2024 Oct;25(10):105203. doi: 10.1016/j.jamda.2024.105203. Epub 2024 Aug 11. PMID: 39142638.

## ABOUT THE GRANT

The Research Institute's Home Health Research grant is the only grant dedicated solely to the betterment and understanding of care in the home. With more than a decade of sponsoring and providing integral education and research on the value of home health care to the U.S. health care system, the Institute, through the grant process, seeks to bring home health care research to the forefront and sow the seeds for critical research in the field that will help inform better care for patients now and for the future.

## RESEARCHERS

**Madeline R. Sterling, MD, MPH, MS, FAHA**, Associate Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine

**Cisco Espinosa, MD-PhD Candidate**, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

**Christine D. Jones, MD, MS**, Associate Professor of Medicine, Divisions of Hospital Medicine and Geriatric Medicine, Associate Professor, University of Colorado School of Medicine

**Lisa M. Kern, MD, MPH**, Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine

**Tracy M. Mroz, PhD, OTR/L**, Associate Professor, University of Washington

**Claire Ankuda, MD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**Alicia Arbaje, MD, PhD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University

## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The Research Institute for Home is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, national consortium of home care providers and organizations foundation focused on improving access to and delivery care in the home. The Institute invests in research and education about home care and its ability to deliver quality, cost-effective, patient-centered care across the care continuum. The Institute is committed to conducting and sponsoring research and initiatives that demonstrate and enhance the value proposition that home care has to offer patients and the entire U.S. health care system.