

Clinical practice guideline — cognitive care programs

The clinical practice guidelines for treating NJ FamilyCare and Amerigroup Amerivantage (Medicare Advantage) members who are dealing with cognitive disorders have been updated in order to improve the quality of care and life for those participating in our cognitive care programs.

Cognitive disorders are often progressive, degenerative disorders of the brain tissue resulting from a number of contributing diseases; they impact one's personality and their ability to learn, memorize, problem solve and perceive the world around them, and are one of the most common causes of dementia. The greatest known risk factor in developing a cognitive disorder is increasing age, but they do not develop as a direct result of the aging process. Cognitive disorders may develop as a result of various other processes, such as a head injury

Although cognitive care program treatments cannot stop the overall progression of impairment, early and accurate diagnosis from screening and treatments may temporarily slow the worsening of various symptoms.

For more information on the updated clinical practice guidelines, refer to the following:

- [*Guideline Watch \(October 2014\): Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias*](#)
- [*Alzheimer's Association Diagnostic Criteria & Guidelines*](#)

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at the toll-free phone numbers listed below:

- Medicaid providers, call 1-800-454-3730.
- Medicare providers, call 1-866-805-4589.