DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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Center for Medicare

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Kim Kuebler, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FAAN
Editor-in-Chief
Multiple Chronic Conditions Resource Center
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Dear Dr. Kuebler:

Thank you for your letter to Administrator Oz sharing your work on integrating palliative care into primary care for people with multiple chronic conditions (MCC). I am responding on his behalf. I read your points with interest, and I appreciate the time you and your colleagues put into the two papers you enclosed.

Your clinical experience adds real weight to this discussion. You have spent 43 years treating patients at a federally qualified health center, often through interpreters and across cultural and language barriers. That perspective matters as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) looks for ways to improve care for people with serious chronic conditions.

CMS shares your concern about the cost and burden of MCC on Medicare beneficiaries. More than two-thirds of our beneficiaries live with MCC, and we know that earlier, better-coordinated symptom management can reduce hospitalizations and improve quality of life. We are exploring these goals through several current efforts, including care management services for complex chronic conditions, behavioral health integration, and models developed through the CMS Innovation Center.

I have asked my team to review the two papers you enclosed and your recommendations on preemptive symptom management and patient self-management support. We will consider how this evidence might inform our ongoing work on chronic care policy.

Thank you again for your dedication to this issue and for taking the time to write. We value input from clinicians who see these challenges firsthand every day.

Sincerely,

Alexander Aramanda

Alexander Aramanda
Principal Deputy Director
Center for Medicare