

Dear Senators Hatch and Wyden,

I am responding to your request for stakeholders' recommendations to improve care for Medicare patients with chronic conditions.

Because there is rarely a cure, patients with chronic disease must indefinitely manage the disease, its treatment, and its social, economic and emotional consequences, Contemporary health care does not prepare them well for these tasks. As a result, contemporary care is inadequate and unnecessarily costly.

Some practices have addressed these issues. One is the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program which prepares patients to manage the issues arising from a chronic disease. It has been shown to enhance the patient's quality of life and reduce the costs of care for both the patients and their health insurance.

I strongly recommend that you urge Medicare to include the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program in their services to patients, thereby increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of care both individually and nationally.

With appreciation,

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