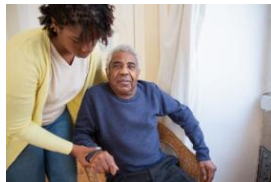


Kern County Aging & Adult Services Medicare GUIDE Dementia Support Program



Help Throughout the Dementia Journey

The [GUIDE Program](#) (Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience) was created by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to stand beside participants and their caregivers. GUIDE helps participants and caregivers navigate a care system that can otherwise feel fragmented.

Kern County Aging & Adult Services (KCAASD), the local Area Agency on Aging, serves as a partner to patients & caregivers in delivering the GUIDE Program, providing compassionate, respectful, and practical support throughout the dementia experience.

Who may be appropriate to refer to the GUIDE Program?

- Has suspected or confirmed dementia
- Has Original Medicare Parts A and B, with Medicare as the primary payer; is not enrolled in Medicare Advantage or PACE; and has not elected the Medicare hospice benefit
- Lives in a private residence - not a long-term nursing home or a memory-care unit

The GUIDE Provider organization submits information to CMS to confirm eligibility before enrollment. GUIDE provides coordinated dementia care and support for patients and unpaid caregivers. Services include care navigation and coordination, assessment and care planning, 24/7 support-line access, medication management, ongoing monitoring, and education and support for unpaid caregivers. There is no patient cost-sharing for GUIDE services.

Unpaid caregivers of patients with moderate to severe dementia may qualify for up to \$2,563 in respite-services that can allow them to take time off from their unpaid caregiving duties. Respite is provided by and paid to GUIDE Program-officially authorized and contracted providers.

Anyone can refer a potential GUIDE participant: Family members or caregivers, medical providers, social workers, community organizations, etc. The KCAASD GUIDE Program Referral Form is available by clicking here: [GUIDE Referral Form](#). If you have questions about how to refer a client or family member, call 661-868-1000 and ask to speak with a member of the GUIDE Team.