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November 14, 2024



## New NAC Report Highlights Critical Need to Support Transplant Caregivers

Earlier this week, we released new research revealing significant gaps in family caregiver support across U.S. transplant centers. The report, "[Gaps and Opportunities: Family Caregiver Programs in U.S. Transplant Centers](#)," documents

critical shortfalls in support services and programs for family caregivers – whose contributions are vital to successful transplant outcomes.

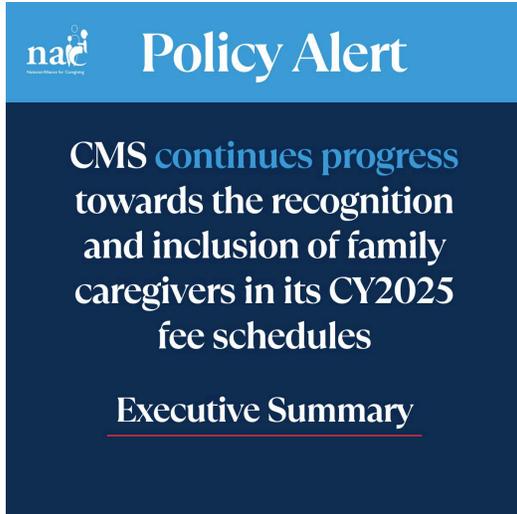
Based on a survey of 114 transplant centers, the report demonstrates an urgent need for healthcare system reforms to strengthen caregiver support and ultimately improve patient health outcomes.

Caregiver contributions are critical to the success of the transplant process. These individuals provide crucial practical, physical, and emotional support to patients before, during, and after lifesaving organ, stem cell, or bone marrow transplants. Their presence is so vital that it's frequently a prerequisite for a recipient to receive a transplant. Yet, little attention is paid to their experiences and needs.

KEY FINDINGS

# POLICY UPDATES

## CMS Continues Progress Towards the Recognition & Inclusion of Family Caregivers



**nac** **Policy Alert**

**CMS continues progress towards the recognition and inclusion of family caregivers in its CY2025 fee schedules**

[Executive Summary](#)

This month, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized the CY2025 Physician Fee Schedule and other Medicare-related regulations. This annual process impacts the more than 61.2 million beneficiaries enrolled in the Medicare program and the family caregivers who support them.

For this year, CMS expanded many training incentives and options for caregivers, often in line with the public comments made by NAC, the Act on Raise Campaign, and our Cancer Caregiving Collaborative.

READ MORE

## New Medicare Drug Savings: What Family Caregivers Need to Know About Fall 2024 Changes

Important changes are coming to the Medicare program that will make prescription drugs more affordable for Medicare Part D enrollees and the family members who help manage their care.

The good news is that all Medicare Part D enrollees will automatically receive a cap on out-of-pocket costs, covering all prescription drugs, copays, and co-insurance related to Part D medications. For family caregivers, this means more predictable costs and fewer worries about unexpected medication expenses.



READ MORE

# CAREGIVER NATION SUMMIT

## Join Us Virtually on November 20



The Caregiver Nation Summit is more than a conference; it's a catalyst for change.

Next week, we will come together with caregivers, advocates, policymakers, and stakeholders to reimagine the future of caregiving in America.

We are excited to hear from our incredible [lineup of speakers](#).

You can still register to join us on November 20 via livestream.

FREE REGISTRATION

# CAREGIVING IN THE NEWS

## HOME CARE

**McKnights Home Care:** NAC leader divulges how home care organizations can uplift family caregivers

Jason Resendez, President & CEO of NAC, discussed the challenges facing family caregivers, and how home care agencies can uplift them.

[Read more](#)

## ELECTION

**Market Watch:** Opinion: Trump's election victory might be good for my retirement – but I'm still skeptical

Resendez spoke about how caregiving cut across party lines during the campaign season, coming to the forefront of the national conversation.

[Read more](#)

## TRANSPLANT CAREGIVING

**AARP:** How to Be a Caregiver for Someone in Need of an Organ Transplant

Programs Director Yadira Montoya discussed the vital role caregivers play in the transplant system and amplified their experiences.

[Read more](#)

## SANDWICH GENERATION

**USA Today:** Harris and Trump are courting caregivers: Why they want to win 'sandwich generation'

Resendez shared insights on the challenges facing caregivers supporting their children and aging parents simultaneously and the need to better support them through policy initiatives.

[Read more](#)

# GET INVOLVED

Submit Your Program to USAging's New Caregiver Services and Supports Innovations Hub

USAging is launching a Caregiver Services and Supports Innovations Hub. The Hub will facilitate the exchange of programs that aim to foster the development of innovative caregiver services and supports in the Aging Network.

The Hub will also include helpful resources and materials to assist organizations in replicating programs in their communities. The deadline to submit your program is December 6.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Parkinson's Disease Family Caregiver Research Opportunity

PERSEVERE is a national study funded by the National Institutes of Health, led by Rush University Medical Center. This study is testing an educational program for family caregivers of people with Parkinson's Disease with cognitive impairment, Parkinson's Disease Dementia, Dementia with Lewy Bodies, or Lewy Body Dementia.

This study will test whether a disease-specific, caregiver-centered educational intervention improves caregiver knowledge, confidence, strain, and health outcomes – and whether it helps people living with Parkinson's Disease Dementia, Dementia with Lewy Bodies, or Lewy Body Dementia, too.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

December

5

From The Campaign To Concrete: How Policymakers Can Support Our Nation's 53 Million Family Caregivers *NAC briefing in partnership with the John A. Hartford Foundation!*

Family caregivers form the backbone of our nation's long-term care system yet remain largely invisible. The [2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers](#) provides a crucial roadmap for federal and state policymakers, agencies, and community leaders to increase coordination and access to support services for family caregivers across the U.S.

Join us for a virtual, nonpartisan briefing detailing policy options for the new Congress and incoming

administration to consider to better support family caregivers.

REGISTER HERE

December

11

Gaps and Opportunities: Family Caregiver Programs in U.S. Transplant Centers

*NAC webinar!*

NAC invites you to join us for a critical webinar that builds on the findings of our [latest transplant caregiving report](#).

Family caregivers are essential in the transplant process, yet their contributions often go unrecognized. This webinar will explore the challenges they face, the lack of adequate support, and the critical role they play in the patient's journey—before, during, and after the transplant.

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# CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL

**nac**  
National Alliance for Caregiving

**CARE @ WORK**

Early in my Genentech career, when my mother was battling metastatic breast cancer, my manager encouraged me to move across the country to care for her -- my toddler and infant in tow. To this day, I am incredibly grateful that he understood the importance of the caregiver role for a parent, and that I was able to take the time I needed to care for both my mother and my sons.

*Ashley Margargee  
Chief Executive Officer  
Genentech, A Member of the Roche Group*

Connect with NAC on social media to get the latest updates on our advocacy efforts, resources, and events.

Throughout National Family Caregivers Month, we are spotlighting stories from senior leaders about balancing caregiving and careers with a goal of helping transform workplace culture to better support America's 32 million employed family caregivers.

We are also sharing Care Facts each week, which leverage data from our **Caregiving in the U.S. 2020 report** to illustrate a picture of the 53 million family caregivers providing complex care.



LET'S CONNECT



National Alliance for Caregiving | 1730 Rhode Island Ave. NW Suite 812 | Washington, DC 20036 US

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