

From: [APA Communications](#)
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Subject: APA Headlines: Medicare Spending Per Person Peaks At Age 73, Report Says
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

July 15, 2016

Leading The News

Medicare Spending Per Person Peaks At Age 73, Report Says.

[Kaiser Health News](#) (7/14, Bluth) reports Medicare spending per person peaks at age 73 and then falls significantly, according to a report from the Kaiser Family Foundation. Researchers were surprised that the average Medicare spending per person was \$43,353 for people age 73, but then lower at \$33,381 for people age 85, and \$27,779 for people age 90. The Kaiser Family Foundation's associate director of the program on Medicare policy Juliette Cubanski says the research goes against the conventional wisdom that physicians "are throwing everything including the kitchen sink at people at the end of life regardless of how old they are."

Psychiatric News Alert



[Study Highlights Role of Triggers in Short-Term Risk of Violence](#)

[CBT May Reduce Likelihood to Repeat Self-Harm](#)

IPS:TMHSC Early Bird Registration Ends 7/21

Gain new skills through in-depth training at IPS: The Mental Health Services Conference this Oct. 6 – 9 in Washington, D.C. Tracks include addiction psychiatry, quality and measurement, psychopharmacology, technology in health care, and more. [Register by July 21](#) for the best rate; members receive even bigger discounts.



Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Stroke Survivors Who Had Hypertension, Other Heart Risk Factors Prior To Stroke May Face Greater Risk For Another Stroke, Dementia Years Later.

[HealthDay](#) (7/14, Dallas) reports that research suggests "stroke survivors who had high blood pressure or other heart risk factors before their stroke may be at greater risk for another stroke and dementia years later." Investigators came to this conclusion after comparing "data from a long-term study on more than 1,200 stroke survivors against data from about 5,000 people who hadn't had a stroke." The findings were published in *Stroke*.

Psychiatry and Public Health

Massachusetts Health Connector Eliminates Co-Pays For Addiction Treatment.

The [Boston Globe](#) (7/15, Freyer) reports that Massachusetts residents "fighting addiction who get subsidized insurance will no longer have to pay for outpatient medication and counseling starting next year." The Massachusetts Health Connector is requiring affiliated insurers "to eliminate all out-of-pocket costs for medication-assisted treatment that includes drugs such as methadone or Suboxone

along with counseling. The Connector's governing board approved the plan unanimously Thursday."

APA in the News

Only A Minority Of People Who Are Obese Suffer From Psychological Issues, Expert Says.

[US News & World Report](#) (7/14, Schroeder) reports, "Obesity is associated with higher rates of certain mental disorders, like depression, and experts say those can hamstring the most adamant efforts to" lose weight and keep it from coming back. Even "though still only a minority of people who are obese suffer from psychological issues like depression," Philip R. Muskin, MD, "chair of the Scientific Program Committee of the American Psychiatric Association, agrees that checking for mental conditions makes sense." Dr. Muskin said, "When you're depressed it may be very difficult to make healthy choices," including diet and exercise. But "he thinks this could be accomplished, to start, through screening in a primary care setting."

Psychiatric Medication Update

Advertisement



New Research Consortium Launched Aimed At Speeding Development Of Therapies for Alzheimer's Disease.

The [Boston Globe](#) (7/14, Weisman) reports that five pharmaceutical makers are now "banding together with academic scientists to form a research consortium aimed at speeding development of therapies for Alzheimer's." The group, which was formally launched July 14, "is called the Massachusetts Center for Alzheimer Therapeutic Science, or MassCATS." MassCATS will be "based" at a Massachusetts General Hospital research center.

Basimglurant Demonstrates Mixed Results For Treatment Of MDD In Phase 2b Clinical Trial.

[Medscape](#) (7/14, Melville) reports that basimglurant, "a novel agent targeting the cortical glutamatergic system, showed mixed results in the adjunctive treatment of major depressive disorder [MDD] in a phase 2b clinical trial,

failing to achieve its primary endpoint," but did demonstrate "some signs" of effectiveness "in secondary outcome measures." The [findings](#) of the 333-patient trial were published in the July issue of JAMA Psychiatry. An accompanying [editorial](#) observed that "lackluster results from recent studies of other glutamatergic-targeting drugs...have fueled some dissent and even a 'crisis in confidence' among some in the field regarding the viability of the glutamatergic system as a target for drug development."

Other News

Palliative Care Counseling For Families Of Patients With Chronic Illnesses May Not Be Effective, Study Suggests.

[Kaiser Health News](#) (7/14, Bluth) reports providing counseling to families providing some palliative care to patients with chronic illnesses may not be helpful, according to a recent [study](#) published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Researchers divided families of patients with chronic illnesses into two groups, both of which had routine family meetings with ICU staff, and one of which also received counseling from palliative care experts. The researchers found that the families who received counseling "were no less depressed or anxious" than the other families, and in fact "may have increased post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms."

Murthy Makes Mental Health A Top Priority.

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/14, Diamond) reports that in an interview, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said that mental health is the third "critical pillar" of wellness, along with nutrition and exercise. Murthy said, "Emotional well-being is more than the absence of a mental illness. It's that resource within each of us which allows us to reach ever closer to our full potential, and which also enables us to be resilient in the face of adversity." He said that "as more research is conducted on emotional well-being, the more its 'significant impacts' are realized on the risk for cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other neurological conditions."

Thursday's Lead Stories

- [APOE Gene May Affect Brain Development, Mental Abilities Of Children, Scan Study Finds.](#)
- [Children With Epilepsy May Face Higher Risk Of Also Having AD/HD, Study Indicates.](#)
- [Healthcare Spending To Top \\$10,000 Per Person This Year.](#)
- [People With Serious Mental Illness Who Are Victims Of Violence Or Exposed To Stressful Events May Be More Likely To Engage In A Violent Crime In Week Following The Trauma.](#)

• **Augmenting CBT With D-Cycloserine May Provide No Added Benefit To Children, Teens With OCD, Small Study Suggests.**

• **Women Whose Hot Flashes Start Early And Are Persistently Severe May Be More Likely To Be In Poorer Health, Study Indicates.**

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