

## HEALTH ISSUES

Alert No. 2022-H-1

January 13, 2022

### HHS Secretary Becerra Calls for Re-evaluation of 2022 Medicare Part B Premiums

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra recently [instructed](#) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to reassess the 2022 Medicare Part B premium. The request comes after CMS in November [announced](#) a nearly 15 percent increase in beneficiaries' Part B premium for 2022 citing the potential cost of the Alzheimer's treatment Aduhelm® as a major driver of premium increases.

Manufactured by Biogen Inc. and approved for limited use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last year, Aduhelm could [cost](#) roughly \$28,000 annually for a course of treatment. CMS [recently proposed](#) a National Coverage Determination decision memorandum regarding FDA-approved monoclonal antibodies drugs to target amyloid for treatment of Alzheimer's, such as Aduhelm, for Medicare-only patients participating in certain clinical trials, and will make a final determination by April.

The use of Aduhelm is intended for patients in the earliest stages of Alzheimer's disease, which includes about 1.5 million people in the U.S.

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If you have any questions regarding this *Academy Alert*, please contact Matthew Williams, senior health policy analyst (williams@actuary.org; 202-868-7001).

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