



News Release
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NCCNHR Joins New *Campaign for Better Care* To Focus Health Reform Implementation on Improving, Coordinating Care for Older Patients

WASHINGTON, DC – To ensure that health reform works for those with the most at stake, the NCCNHR is joining the [National Partnership for Women & Families](#), [Community Catalyst](#) and the [National Health Law Program](#) (NHeLP) today in launching the [Campaign for Better Care](#), a multi-year initiative that will focus on improving care, coordination and communication for older patients with multiple health problems and their family caregivers. The *Campaign* will build a consumer movement of and for older adults and those with multiple chronic conditions, who are counting on reform to provide the comprehensive, coordinated, patient-centered care they need.

A national survey of Americans age 50 or older, conducted by Lake Research Partners in March for the *Campaign for Better Care*, finds that three in four respondents (74 percent) say that they have wished that their doctors talked and shared information with each other. Millions have experienced problems related to a lack of communication and coordination:

- 40 percent of people who take five or more medications, 47 percent of heavy users of the health care system, and one in three people age 50 or older say their doctors do not talk to them about potential interactions with other drugs or over-the-counter medications when prescribing new medications.
- 36 percent of heavy users of the health care system, and 20 percent of people age 50 or older, say they have received conflicting information from different doctors.

“We’re proud to join this multi-faceted new campaign aimed at ensuring that health reform works for those who need it most – vulnerable older patients with multiple health problems, and their family caregivers,” said Sarah Wells, NCCNHR executive director.

The new *Campaign for Better Care*’s policy agenda aims to ensure that the reformed health care system provides the comprehensive, coordinated, patient- and family-centered care that older adults and individuals with multiple health problems need. It will advocate for better ways of delivering care including effective care coordination, transition management, medication reconciliation, support for patients and their family caregivers, and care that is culturally and linguistically appropriate. It will support payment strategies that enhance primary care practice and reward better quality, coordination and communication among providers, patients and family caregivers. It will press for performance measurement that holds providers accountable and sets priorities for quality improvement. It will promote effective use of health information technologies. It will press for assessment of patient experience to improve care and tools that empower patients and caregivers to make fully informed decisions. Learn more, and read stories of patients who need better care, at www.CampaignForBetterCare.org.