

FACTSHEET

MARCH 2026

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Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention Act

Blood tests can help detect Alzheimer's disease before symptoms appear, enabling more effective treatment.

- Brain changes due to Alzheimer's disease may begin as early as 20 years prior to onset.
- Researchers have developed blood tests that can detect Alzheimer's before symptoms appear.
- Identifying these markers before symptoms even appear allows people to focus on the prevention of symptoms and receive treatment at the very earliest signs of cognitive impairment when treatment is significantly more effective.

The American people support early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's.

- Fewer than 10% of people receive a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease when they have mild cognitive impairment, the phase when symptoms first emerge and they are eligible for treatment.
- Nearly 4 in 5 say they would want to know their Alzheimer's diagnosis while symptoms are still mild or before symptoms appear at all.
- More than 9 in 10 Americans say they would want a simple test to allow for early treatment.
- Early diagnosis and treatment is the gold standard for diseases like cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. We now know early diagnosis and treatment leads to much better outcomes for Alzheimer's disease as well.

But Medicare cannot cover routine Alzheimer's blood screening tests.

- Under current law, Medicare is prohibited from covering FDA-approved screening tests *unless* Congress provides permission
- Congress has acted to allow Medicare to cover routine screening tests like cancer, but until Congress does so for Alzheimer's and other diseases that cause dementia (ADRD), Medicare cannot cover FDA-cleared Alzheimer's screening test.
- This is a legal barrier — not a scientific one, and this barrier blocks appropriate Alzheimer's care.
- By opening the door to screening for ADRD, the ASAP Act ensures Medicare the health system can keep pace with scientific progress instead of falling years behind.

The Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention (ASAP) Act (S. 3267 / H.R. 6130) would permit Medicare to cover Alzheimer's blood tests.

- The bipartisan ASAP Act would permit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to cover routine blood-based screening tests for ADRD once the FDA clears them.
- The ASAP Act uses CMS's existing evidence-based process to determine coverage rules for these new tests.