The U.S. population is aging rapidly with over 10,000 new enrollees entering Medicare every day. Though Americans are leading healthier and longer lives than ever before, the vast majority will face advanced illness at some point in their lives.

To address these issues, the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC) launched the Campaign to Transform Advanced Care, a national movement built on policy change, state and community organizing, and support for family caregivers, to accelerate the movement to transform advanced illness care.

Why an Index
We cannot show progress if we cannot measure performance. C-TAC began developing an index to track progress in the movement. The Advanced Care Transformation (ACT) Index will provide an easily-understood evaluation of performance improvement efforts by policy makers, health systems, clinicians, and the public to improve the quality of life for the advanced illness population and their families.

Key Components
The ACT Index consolidates published data from a variety of resources to create a composite of the nation’s effectiveness in caring for the advanced illness population. In brief, it is akin to other widely-recognized “scorecards” that track performance, such as the Consumer Price Index that tracks price of goods, or the National Wage Index of the Social Security Administration.

The ACT index will include both patient and family assessments of care (patient satisfaction, effectiveness of pain management, access to hospice care, home health care or other community support services, etc.) and the processes of care (costs, hospital days, hospital readmissions, home health visits, etc.) during the last two years of life.

In its current version, the index shows an annual net improvement of 2.1%, a rate that is inadequate to close current and projected care gaps.
The chart shows actual results through 2014 and projected results through 2030, for both the Index (orange) and Medicare enrollment (green). The ability of the healthcare system to provide the necessary person-centered care, reflected by the ACT Index, is not sufficient to keep pace with the growing needs of the Medicare population, let alone close current care gaps.

**Future Development**

C-TAC is working with leading experts to further develop the ACT Index. Additional healthcare providers and public members will be invited to serve on an advisory committee that will be charged with identifying additional key components of the ACT Index.

The index will be presented at the **C-TAC National Summit on Advanced Illness Care**, November 27-29, 2017.

Contact David Longnecker at **DEL@thectac.org** for more information on the index.