

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1342

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2015

Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. SCHRADER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Home Health Care
5 Planning Improvement Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING CARE PLANNING FOR MEDICARE HOME**
2 **HEALTH SERVICES.**

3 (a) PART A PROVISIONS.—Section 1814(a) of the So-
4 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (2)—

6 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
7 (A), by inserting “, a nurse practitioner or clin-
8 ical nurse specialist who is working in collabo-
9 ration with a physician in accordance with
10 State law, a certified nurse-midwife (as defined
11 in section 1861(gg)) as authorized by State law,
12 or a physician assistant (as defined in section
13 1861(aa)(5)) under the supervision of a physi-
14 cian” after “1866(j)”; and

15 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

16 (i) by inserting “, a nurse practi-
17 tioner, a clinical nurse specialist, a cer-
18 tified nurse-midwife, or a physician assist-
19 ant (as the case may be)” after “physi-
20 cian” the first 2 times it appears; and

21 (ii) by striking “, and, in the case of
22 a certification made by a physician” and
23 all that follows through “face-to-face en-
24 counter” and inserting “, and, in the case
25 of a certification made by a physician after
26 January 1, 2010, or by a nurse practi-

1 tioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified
2 nurse-midwife, or physician assistant (as
3 the case may be) after January 1, 2016,
4 prior to making such certification the phy-
5 sician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse
6 specialist, certified nurse-midwife, or physi-
7 cian assistant must document that the
8 physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse
9 specialist, certified nurse-midwife, or physi-
10 cian assistant has had a face-to-face en-
11 counter”;

12 (2) in the second sentence, by inserting “cer-
13 tified nurse-midwife,” after “clinical nurse spe-
14 cialist,”;

15 (3) in the third sentence—

16 (A) by striking “physician certification”
17 and inserting “certification”;

18 (B) by inserting “(or on January 1, 2016,
19 in the case of regulations to implement the
20 amendments made by section 2 of the Home
21 Health Care Planning Improvement Act of
22 2015)” after “1981”; and

23 (C) by striking “a physician who” and in-
24 serting “a physician, nurse practitioner, clinical

1 nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife, or phy-
2 sician assistant who”; and

3 (4) in the fourth sentence, by inserting “, nurse
4 practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-
5 midwife, or physician assistant” after “physician”.

6 (b) PART B PROVISIONS.—Section 1835(a) of the So-
7 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395n(a)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (2)—

9 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
10 (A), by inserting “, a nurse practitioner or clin-
11 ical nurse specialist (as those terms are defined
12 in 1861(aa)(5)) who is working in collaboration
13 with a physician in accordance with State law,
14 a certified nurse-midwife (as defined in section
15 1861(gg)) as authorized by State law, or a phy-
16 sician assistant (as defined in section
17 1861(aa)(5)) under the supervision of a physi-
18 cian” after “1866(j)”; and

19 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

20 (i) in each of clauses (ii) and (iii) of
21 subparagraph (A), by inserting “, a nurse
22 practitioner, a clinical nurse specialist, a
23 certified nurse-midwife, or a physician as-
24 sistant (as the case may be)” after “physi-
25 cian”; and

1 (ii) in clause (iv), by striking “after
2 January 1, 2010” and all that follows
3 through “face-to-face encounter” and in-
4 serting “made by a physician after Janu-
5 ary 1, 2010, or by a nurse practitioner,
6 clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-
7 midwife, or physician assistant (as the case
8 may be) after January 1, 2016, prior to
9 making such certification the physician,
10 nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist,
11 certified nurse-midwife, or physician assist-
12 ant must document that the physician,
13 nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist,
14 certified nurse-midwife, or physician assist-
15 ant has had a face-to-face encounter”;

16 (2) in the third sentence, by inserting “, nurse
17 practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-
18 midwife, or physician assistant (as the case may
19 be)” after “physician”;

20 (3) in the fourth sentence—

21 (A) by striking “physician certification”
22 and inserting “certification”;

23 (B) by inserting “(or on January 1, 2016,
24 in the case of regulations to implement the
25 amendments made by section 2 of the Home

1 Health Care Planning Improvement Act of
2 2015)” after “1981”; and

3 (C) by striking “a physician who” and in-
4 serting “a physician, nurse practitioner, clinical
5 nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife, or phy-
6 sician assistant who”; and

7 (4) in the fifth sentence, by inserting “, nurse
8 practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-
9 midwife, or physician assistant” after “physician”.

10 (c) DEFINITION PROVISIONS.—

11 (1) HOME HEALTH SERVICES.—Section
12 1861(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
13 1395x(m)) is amended—

14 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

15 (1)—

16 (i) by inserting “, a nurse practitioner
17 or a clinical nurse specialist (as those
18 terms are defined in subsection (aa)(5)), a
19 certified nurse-midwife (as defined in sec-
20 tion 1861(gg)), or a physician assistant (as
21 defined in subsection (aa)(5))” after “phy-
22 sician” the first place it appears; and

23 (ii) by inserting “, a nurse practi-
24 tioner, a clinical nurse specialist, a cer-
25 tified nurse-midwife, or a physician assist-

1 ant” after “physician” the second place it
2 appears; and

3 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, a
4 nurse practitioner, a clinical nurse specialist, a
5 certified nurse-midwife, or a physician assist-
6 ant” after “physician”.

7 (2) HOME HEALTH AGENCY.—Section
8 1861(o)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 1395x(o)(2)) is amended—

10 (A) by inserting “, nurse practitioners or
11 clinical nurse specialists (as those terms are de-
12 fined in subsection (aa)(5)), certified nurse-mid-
13 wives (as defined in section 1861(gg)), or physi-
14 cian assistants (as defined in subsection
15 (aa)(5))” after “physicians”; and

16 (B) by inserting “, nurse practitioner, clin-
17 ical nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife,
18 physician assistant,” after “physician”.

19 (d) HOME HEALTH PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM
20 PROVISIONS.—Section 1895 of the Social Security Act (42
21 U.S.C. 1395fff) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “, the
23 nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist (as
24 those terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)), the
25 certified nurse-midwife (as defined in section

1 1861(gg)), or the physician assistant (as defined in
2 section 1861(aa)(5)),” after “physician”; and

3 (2) in subsection (e)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, a
5 nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist (as
6 those terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)),
7 a certified nurse-midwife (as defined in section
8 1861(gg)), or a physician assistant (as defined
9 in section 1861(aa)(5))” after “physician”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in the heading, by striking “PHY-
12 SICIAN CERTIFICATION” and inserting
13 “RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING RE-
14 QUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION”; and

15 (ii) by striking “physician”.

16 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
17 this section shall apply to items and services furnished on
18 or after January 1, 2016.

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