

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 818

To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BERA, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KIND, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WOMACK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Preventing and Reducing Improper Medicare and Med-

1 icaid Expenditures Act of 2015” or the “PRIME Act of
2 2015”.

3 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
4 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CURBING IMPROPER PAYMENTS

Sec. 101. Requiring valid prescriber National Provider Identifiers on pharmacy claims.

Sec. 102. Reforming how CMS tracks and corrects the vulnerabilities identified by Recovery Audit Contractors.

Sec. 103. Improving Senior Medicare Patrol and fraud reporting rewards.

Sec. 104. Strengthening Medicaid Program integrity through flexibility.

Sec. 105. Establishing Medicare administrative contractor error reduction incentives.

Sec. 106. Strengthening penalties for the illegal distribution of a Medicare, Medicaid, or CHIP beneficiary identification or billing privileges.

TITLE II—IMPROVING DATA SHARING

Sec. 201. Access to the National Directory of New Hires.

Sec. 202. Improving the sharing of data between the Federal Government and State Medicaid programs.

Sec. 203. Improving claims processing and detection of fraud within the Medicaid and CHIP programs.

TITLE III—REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION

Sec. 301. Report on implementation.

5 **TITLE I—CURBING IMPROPER** 6 **PAYMENTS**

7 **SEC. 101. REQUIRING VALID PRESCRIBER NATIONAL PRO-** 8 **VIDER IDENTIFIERS ON PHARMACY CLAIMS.**

9 Section 1860D–4(c) of the Social Security Act (42
10 U.S.C. 1395w–104(c)) is amended by adding at the end
11 the following new paragraph:

12 “(4) REQUIRING VALID PRESCRIBER NATIONAL
13 PROVIDER IDENTIFIERS ON PHARMACY CLAIMS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For plan year 2017
2 and subsequent plan years, subject to subpara-
3 graph (B), the Secretary shall prohibit PDP
4 sponsors of prescription drug plans from paying
5 claims for prescription drugs under this part
6 that do not include a valid prescriber National
7 Provider Identifier.

8 “(B) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall
9 establish—

10 “(i) procedures for determining the
11 validity of prescriber National Provider
12 Identifiers under subparagraph (A); and

13 “(ii) procedures for transferring to
14 the Inspector General of the Department
15 of Health and Human Services and appro-
16 priate law enforcement agencies and other
17 oversight entities information on those Na-
18 tional Provider Identifiers and pharmacy
19 claims, including records related to such
20 claims, that the Secretary determines are
21 invalid under clause (i).

22 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than January 1,
23 2019, the Inspector General of the Department
24 of Health and Human Services shall submit to
25 Congress a report on the effectiveness of the

1 procedures established under subparagraph
2 (B).”.

3 **SEC. 102. REFORMING HOW CMS TRACKS AND CORRECTS**
4 **THE VULNERABILITIES IDENTIFIED BY RE-**
5 **COVERY AUDIT CONTRACTORS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1893(h) of the Social Se-
7 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ddd(h)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (8)—

9 (A) by striking “REPORT.—The Secretary”
10 and inserting “REPORT.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
12 graph (C), the Secretary”; and

13 (B) by adding after subparagraph (A), as
14 inserted by subparagraph (A), the following new
15 subparagraphs:

16 “(B) INCLUSION OF IMPROPER PAYMENT
17 VULNERABILITIES IDENTIFIED.—Each report
18 submitted under subparagraph (A) shall, sub-
19 ject to subparagraph (C), include—

20 “(i) a description of—

21 “(I) the types and financial cost
22 to the program under this title of im-
23 proper payment vulnerabilities identi-
24 fied by recovery audit contractors
25 under this subsection; and

1 “(II) how the Secretary is ad-
2 dressing such improper payment
3 vulnerabilities; and

4 “(ii) an assessment of the effective-
5 ness of changes made to payment policies
6 and procedures under this title in order to
7 address the vulnerabilities so identified.

8 “(C) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall
9 ensure that each report submitted under sub-
10 paragraph (A) does not include information
11 that the Secretary determines would be sen-
12 sitive or would otherwise negatively impact pro-
13 gram integrity.”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraph:

16 “(10) ADDRESSING IMPROPER PAYMENT
17 VULNERABILITIES.—The Secretary shall address im-
18 proper payment vulnerabilities identified by recovery
19 audit contractors under this subsection in a timely
20 manner, prioritized based on the risk to the program
21 under this title.”.

22 (b) USE OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID RECOVERY
23 AUDIT CONTRACTOR RECOVERIES FOR PROVIDER EDU-
24 CATION AND TO PREVENT IMPROPER PAYMENTS AND
25 FRAUD.—

1 (1) MEDICARE RAC PROGRAM.—Section
2 1893(h)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
3 1395ddd(h)(1)(C)) is amended—

4 (A) by striking “the Secretary shall re-
5 tain” and inserting “the Secretary—

6 “(i) shall retain”;

7 (B) in clause (i), as added by subpara-
8 graph (A)—

9 (i) by inserting “, in addition to any
10 other funds that may be available,” after
11 “available”;

12 (ii) by inserting “until expended”
13 after “Services”; and

14 (iii) by striking the period at the end
15 and inserting a semicolon; and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following new
17 clauses:

18 “(ii) may retain an additional portion
19 of the amounts recovered (not to exceed 25
20 percent of such amounts recovered) which
21 shall be available, in addition to any other
22 funds that may be available, to such pro-
23 gram management account until expended
24 for purposes of activities to address prob-

1 lems that contribute to improper payments
2 and fraud under this title; and

3 “(iii) shall retain an additional 5 per-
4 cent of such amounts recovered to be made
5 available, in addition to any other funds
6 that may be available, to the Inspector
7 General of the Department of Health and
8 Human Services until expended for the In-
9 spector General to carry out activities of
10 the Inspector General relating to inves-
11 tigating improper payments or auditing in-
12 ternal controls associated with payments
13 under this title.”.

14 (2) MEDICAID RAC PROGRAM.—Section 1936 of
15 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396u–6) is
16 amended by adding at the end the following new
17 subsection:

18 “(f) AMOUNTS RECOVERED THROUGH RECOVERY
19 AUDIT CONTRACTORS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
20 sion of law, the Secretary—

21 “(1) may retain a portion of the amounts recov-
22 ered pursuant to the program established under sec-
23 tion 1902(a)(42)(B) (not to exceed 25 percent of the
24 Federal share of such amounts recovered) which
25 shall be available, in addition to any other funds

1 that may be available, to the program management
2 account of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
3 Services for purposes of activities to address prob-
4 lems that contribute to improper payments and
5 fraud under this title; and

6 “(2) shall retain an additional 5 percent of the
7 Federal share of such amounts recovered to be made
8 available, in addition to any other funds that may be
9 available, to the Inspector General of the Depart-
10 ment of Health and Human Services until expended
11 for the Inspector General to carry out activities of
12 the Inspector General relating to investigating im-
13 proper payments or auditing internal controls associ-
14 ated with payments under this title.”.

15 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
16 by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2016.

17 **SEC. 103. IMPROVING SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL AND**
18 **FRAUD REPORTING REWARDS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
20 Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-
21 retary”) shall develop a plan to revise the incentive pro-
22 gram under section 203(b) of the Health Insurance Port-
23 ability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1395b–
24 5(b)) to encourage greater participation by individuals to

1 report fraud and abuse in the Medicare program. Such
2 plan shall include recommendations for—

3 (1) ways to enhance rewards for individuals re-
4 porting under the incentive program, including re-
5 wards based on information that leads to an admin-
6 istrative action; and

7 (2) extending the incentive program to the
8 Medicaid program.

9 (b) PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION CAM-
10 PAIGN.—The plan developed under subsection (a) shall
11 also include recommendations for the use of the Senior
12 Medicare Patrols authorized under section 411 of the
13 Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3032) to conduct
14 a public awareness and education campaign to encourage
15 participation in the revised incentive program under sub-
16 section (a).

17 (c) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
19 submit to Congress the plan developed under subsection
20 (a).

21 **SEC. 104. STRENGTHENING MEDICAID PROGRAM INTEG-**
22 **RITY THROUGH FLEXIBILITY.**

23 Section 1936 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
24 1396u–6) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, or other-
2 wise,” after “entities”; and

3 (2) in subsection (e)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), in the matter pre-
5 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “(includ-
6 ing the costs of equipment, salaries and bene-
7 fits, and travel and training)” after “Program
8 under this section”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “by 100”
10 and inserting “by 100, or such number as de-
11 termined necessary by the Secretary to carry
12 out the Program,”.

13 **SEC. 105. ESTABLISHING MEDICARE ADMINISTRATIVE CON-**
14 **TRACTOR ERROR REDUCTION INCENTIVES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1874A(b)(1)(D) of the
16 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk(b)(1)(D)) is
17 amended—

18 (1) by striking “QUALITY.—The Secretary” and
19 inserting “QUALITY.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses

21 (ii) and (iii), the Secretary”; and

22 (2) by inserting after clause (i), as added by
23 paragraph (1), the following new clauses:

24 “(ii) IMPROPER PAYMENT ERROR
25 RATE REDUCTION INCENTIVES.—The Sec-

1 retary shall provide incentives for medicare
2 administrative contractors to reduce the
3 improper payment error rates in their ju-
4 risdictions.

5 “(iii) INCENTIVES.—The incentives
6 provided for under clause (ii)—

7 “(I) may include a sliding scale
8 of bonus payments and additional in-
9 centives to medicare administrative
10 contractors that reduce the improper
11 payment error rates in their jurisdic-
12 tions to certain benchmark levels, as
13 determined by the Secretary; and

14 “(II) shall include substantial re-
15 ductions in award fee payments under
16 award fee contracts, for any medicare
17 administrative contractor that reaches
18 an upper end error threshold or other
19 threshold as determined by the Sec-
20 retary.”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by
23 subsection (a) shall apply to contracts entered into
24 or renewed on or after the date that is 12 months
25 after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (2) CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO OR RENEWED
2 PRIOR TO EFFECTIVE DATE.—In the case of con-
3 tracts in existence on or after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act and that are not subject to the ef-
5 fective date under paragraph (1), the Secretary of
6 Health and Human Services shall, when appropriate
7 and practicable, seek to apply the incentives pro-
8 vided for in the amendments made by subsection (a)
9 through contract modifications.

10 **SEC. 106. STRENGTHENING PENALTIES FOR THE ILLEGAL**
11 **DISTRIBUTION OF A MEDICARE, MEDICAID,**
12 **OR CHIP BENEFICIARY IDENTIFICATION OR**
13 **BILLING PRIVILEGES.**

14 Section 1128B(b) of the Social Security Act (42
15 U.S.C. 1320a–7b(b)) is amended by adding at the end the
16 following:

17 “(4) Whoever knowingly, intentionally, and with
18 the intent to defraud purchases, sells or distributes,
19 or arranges for the purchase, sale, or distribution of
20 a Medicare, Medicaid, or CHIP beneficiary identi-
21 fication number or billing privileges under title
22 XVIII, title XIX, or title XXI shall be imprisoned
23 for not more than 10 years or fined not more than
24 \$500,000 (\$1,000,000 in the case of a corporation),
25 or both.”.

1 **TITLE II—IMPROVING DATA**
2 **SHARING**

3 **SEC. 201. ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW**
4 **HIRES.**

5 Section 453(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
6 653(j)) is amended by adding at the end of the following
7 new paragraph:

8 “(12) INFORMATION COMPARISONS AND DIS-
9 CLOSURES TO ASSIST IN ADMINISTRATION OF THE
10 MEDICARE PROGRAM AND STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY
11 PROGRAMS.—

12 “(A) DISCLOSURE TO THE ADMINIS-
13 TRATOR OF THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE &
14 MEDICAID SERVICES.—The Administrator of
15 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid shall have
16 access to the information in the National Direc-
17 tory of New Hires for purposes of determining
18 the eligibility of an applicant for, or enrollee in,
19 the Medicare program under title XVIII or an
20 applicable State health subsidy program (as de-
21 fined in section 1413(e) of the Patient Protec-
22 tion and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
23 18083(e))).

1 “(B) DISCLOSURE TO THE INSPECTOR
2 GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
3 AND HUMAN SERVICES.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Inspector
5 General of the Department of Health and
6 Human Services transmits to the Secretary
7 the names and social security account
8 numbers of individuals, the Secretary shall
9 disclose to the Inspector General informa-
10 tion on such individuals and their employ-
11 ers maintained in the National Directory
12 of New Hires.

13 “(ii) USE OF INFORMATION.—The In-
14 spector General of the Department of
15 Health and Human Services may use in-
16 formation provided under clause (i) only
17 for purposes of—

18 “(I) determining the eligibility of
19 an applicant for, or enrollee in, the
20 Medicare program under title XVIII
21 or an applicable State health subsidy
22 program (as defined in section
23 1413(e) of the Patient Protection and
24 Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
25 18083(e))); or

1 “(II) evaluating the integrity of
2 the Medicare program or an applica-
3 ble State health subsidy program (as
4 so defined).

5 “(C) DISCLOSURE TO STATE AGENCIES.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If, for purposes of
7 administering an applicable State health
8 subsidy program (as defined in section
9 1413(e) of the Patient Protection and Af-
10 fordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18083(e))), a
11 State agency responsible for administering
12 such program transmits to the Secretary
13 the names and social security account
14 numbers of individuals, the Secretary shall
15 disclose to such State agency information
16 on such individuals and their employers
17 maintained in the National Directory of
18 New Hires, subject to this subparagraph.

19 “(ii) CONDITION ON DISCLOSURE BY
20 THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall
21 make a disclosure under clause (i) only to
22 the extent that the Secretary determines
23 that the disclosure would not interfere with
24 the effective operation of the program
25 under this part.

1 “(iii) USE AND DISCLOSURE OF IN-
2 FORMATION BY STATE AGENCIES.—

3 “(I) IN GENERAL.—A State
4 agency may not use or disclose infor-
5 mation provided under clause (i) ex-
6 cept for purposes of administering a
7 program referred to in clause (i).

8 “(II) INFORMATION SECURITY.—
9 The State agency shall have in effect
10 data security and control policies that
11 the Secretary finds adequate to ensure
12 the security of information obtained
13 under clause (i) and to ensure that
14 access to such information is re-
15 stricted to authorized persons for pur-
16 poses of authorized uses and disclo-
17 sures.

18 “(III) PENALTY FOR MISUSE OF
19 INFORMATION.—An officer or em-
20 ployee of the State agency who fails to
21 comply with this clause shall be sub-
22 ject to the sanctions under subsection
23 (l)(2) to the same extent as if such of-
24 ficer or employee were an officer or
25 employee of the United States.

1 “(iv) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.—
2 State agencies requesting information
3 under clause (i) shall adhere to uniform
4 procedures established by the Secretary
5 governing information requests and data
6 matching under this paragraph.

7 “(v) REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS.—
8 The State agency shall reimburse the Sec-
9 retary, in accordance with subsection
10 (k)(3), for the costs incurred by the Sec-
11 retary in furnishing the information re-
12 quested under this subparagraph.”.

13 **SEC. 202. IMPROVING THE SHARING OF DATA BETWEEN**
14 **THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND STATE**
15 **MEDICAID PROGRAMS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
17 Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-
18 retary”) shall establish a plan to encourage and facilitate
19 the participation of States in the Medicare-Medicaid Data
20 Match Program (commonly referred to as the “Medi-Medi
21 Program”) under section 1893(g) of the Social Security
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ddd(g)).

23 (b) PROGRAM REVISIONS TO IMPROVE MEDI-MEDI
24 DATA MATCH PROGRAM PARTICIPATION BY STATES.—

1 Section 1893(g)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42
2 U.S.C. 1395ddd(g)(1)(A)) is amended—

3 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by insert-
4 ing “or otherwise” after “eligible entities”;

5 (2) in clause (i)—

6 (A) by inserting “to review claims data”
7 after “algorithms”; and

8 (B) by striking “service, time, or patient”
9 and inserting “provider, service, time, or pa-
10 tient”;

11 (3) in clause (ii)—

12 (A) by inserting “to investigate and re-
13 cover amounts with respect to suspect claims”
14 after “appropriate actions”; and

15 (B) by striking “; and” and inserting a
16 semicolon;

17 (4) in clause (iii), by striking the period and in-
18 serting “; and”;

19 (5) by adding at end the following new clause:

20 “(iv) furthering the Secretary’s de-
21 sign, development, installation, or enhance-
22 ment of an automated data system archi-
23 tecture—

24 “(I) to collect, integrate, and as-
25 sess data for purposes of program in-

1 tegrity, program oversight, and ad-
2 ministration, including the Medi-Medi
3 Program; and

4 “(II) that improves the coordina-
5 tion of requests for data from
6 States.”.

7 (c) PROVIDING STATES WITH DATA ON IMPROPER
8 PAYMENTS MADE FOR ITEMS OR SERVICES PROVIDED TO
9 DUAL ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop
11 and implement a plan that allows each State agency
12 responsible for administering a State plan for med-
13 ical assistance under title XIX of the Social Security
14 Act access to relevant data on improper or fraudu-
15 lent payments made under the Medicare program
16 under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42
17 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) for health care items or serv-
18 ices provided to dual eligible individuals.

19 (2) DUAL ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In
20 this section, the term “dual eligible individual”
21 means an individual who is entitled to, or enrolled
22 for, benefits under part A of title XVIII of the So-
23 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395c et seq.), or en-
24 rolled for benefits under part B of title XVIII of
25 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j et seq.), and is eligible

1 for medical assistance under a State plan under title
2 XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) or under
3 a waiver of such plan.

4 **SEC. 203. IMPROVING CLAIMS PROCESSING AND DETEC-**
5 **TION OF FRAUD WITHIN THE MEDICAID AND**
6 **CHIP PROGRAMS.**

7 (a) MEDICAID.—Section 1903(i) of the Social Secu-
8 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(i)), as amended by section
9 2001(a)(2)(B) of the Patient Protection and Affordable
10 Care Act (Public Law 111–148), is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (25), by striking “or” at the
12 end;

13 (2) in paragraph (26), by striking the period
14 and inserting “; or”; and

15 (3) by adding after paragraph (26), the fol-
16 lowing new paragraph:

17 “(27) with respect to amounts expended for an
18 item or service for which medical assistance is pro-
19 vided under the State plan or under a waiver of such
20 plan unless the claim for payment for such item or
21 service contains a valid beneficiary identification
22 number that, for purposes of the individual who re-
23 ceived such item or service, has been determined by
24 the State agency to correspond to an individual who

1 is eligible to receive benefits under the State plan or
2 waiver.”.

3 (b) CHIP.—Section 2107(e)(1)(I) of the Social Secu-
4 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(e)(1)(I)) is amended by strik-
5 ing “and (17)” and inserting “(17), and (27)”.

6 **TITLE III—REPORT ON**
7 **IMPLEMENTATION**

8 **SEC. 301. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.**

9 Not later than 270 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human
11 Services shall submit to Congress a report on the imple-
12 mentation of the provisions of, and the amendments made
13 by, this Act.

○