

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 578

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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.

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”.

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

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

1 (1) in paragraph (2)—

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

11 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

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

17 (ii) by striking “, and, in the case of
18 a certification made by a physician” and
19 all that follows through “face-to-face en-
20 counter” and inserting “, and, in the case
21 of a certification made by a physician after
22 January 1, 2010, or by a nurse practi-
23 tioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified
24 nurse-midwife, or physician assistant (as
25 the case may be) after January 1, 2016,

1 prior to making such certification the phy-
2 sician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse
3 specialist, certified nurse-midwife, or physi-
4 cian assistant must document that the
5 physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse
6 specialist, certified nurse-midwife, or physi-
7 cian assistant has had a face-to-face en-
8 counter”;

9 (2) in the second sentence, by inserting “cer-
10 tified nurse-midwife,” after “clinical nurse spe-
11 cialist,”;

12 (3) in the third sentence—

13 (A) by striking “physician certification”
14 and inserting “certification”;

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

20 (C) by striking “a physician who” and in-
21 sserting “a physician, nurse practitioner, clinical
22 nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife, or phy-
23 sician assistant who”; and

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

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

6 (1) in paragraph (2)—

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

17 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

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

24 (ii) in clause (iv), by striking “after
25 January 1, 2010” and all that follows

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

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

18 (3) in the fourth sentence—

19 (A) by striking “physician certification”
20 and inserting “certification”;

21 (B) by inserting “(or on January 1, 2016,
22 in the case of regulations to implement the
23 amendments made by section 2 of the Home
24 Health Care Planning Improvement Act of
25 2015)” after “1981”; and

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

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

8 (c) DEFINITION PROVISIONS.—

9 (1) HOME HEALTH SERVICES.—Section
10 1861(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
11 1395x(m)) is amended—

12 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph
13 (1)—

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

21 (ii) by inserting “, a nurse practi-
22 tioner, a clinical nurse specialist, a cer-
23 tified nurse-midwife, or a physician assist-
24 ant” after “physician” the second place it
25 appears; and

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

5 (2) HOME HEALTH AGENCY.—Section
6 1861(o)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 1395x(o)(2)) is amended—

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

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

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

20 (1) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “, the
21 nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist (as
22 those terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)), the
23 certified nurse-midwife (as defined in section
24 1861(gg)), or the physician assistant (as defined in
25 section 1861(aa)(5)),” after “physician”; and

1 (2) in subsection (e)—

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

8 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

13 (ii) by striking “physician”.

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

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