

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2744

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the interim payment system for home health services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on 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 modify the interim payment system for home health services, 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 Equity
5 Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF AUTOMATIC 15 PERCENT REDUC-**
7 **TION IN HOME HEALTH PAYMENTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—

1 (1) CONTINGENCY REDUCTION.—Section 4603
2 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law
3 105–33) (42 U.S.C. 1395fff note), as amended by
4 section 5101(c)(3) of the Tax and Trade Relief Ex-
5 tension Act of 1998 (contained in Division J of Pub-
6 lic Law 105–277), is amended by striking subsection
7 (e).

8 (2) PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM.—Section
9 1895(b)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
10 1395fff(b)(3)(A)) is amended—

11 (A) by striking “INITIAL BASIS.—” and all
12 that follows through “Under such system”, and
13 inserting “INITIAL BASIS.—Under such sys-
14 tem”;

15 (B) in clause (i), by striking “but if the re-
16 duction in limits described in clause (ii) had
17 been in effect”; and

18 (C) by striking clause (ii).

19 **SEC. 3. OUTLIER PAYMENTS.**

20 (a) WAIVER OF PER BENEFICIARY LIMITS FOR
21 OUTLIERS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(v)(1)(L) of the
23 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(v)(1)(L)), as
24 amended by section 5101(a) of the Tax and Trade

1 Relief Extension Act of 1998 (contained in Division
2 J of Public Law 105–277) is amended—

3 (A) by redesignating clause (ix) as clause
4 (x); and

5 (B) by inserting after clause (viii) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(ix)(I) Notwithstanding the applicable per bene-
8 ficiary limit under clause (v), (vi), or (viii), but subject
9 to the applicable per visit limit under clause (i), in the
10 case of a provider that demonstrates to the Secretary that
11 with respect to an individual to whom the provider fur-
12 nished home health services appropriate to the individual’s
13 condition (as determined by the Secretary) at a reasonable
14 cost (as determined by the Secretary), and that such rea-
15 sonable cost significantly exceeded such applicable per
16 beneficiary limit because of unusual variations in the type
17 or amount of medically necessary care required to treat
18 the individual, the Secretary, upon application by the pro-
19 vider, shall pay to such provider for such individual such
20 reasonable cost.

21 “(II)(aa) The Secretary shall establish such criteria
22 as is required for payment under this clause, including a
23 description of the type of individual, condition, unusual
24 variations, and home health service that qualifies for such
25 payment.

1 “(bb) In establishing criteria under item (aa), the
2 Secretary shall consider the information gathered in order
3 to establish case mix adjustment factors under section
4 1895(b)(4)(B) and any available Outcomes and Assess-
5 ment Information Set (OASIS) case mix data.

6 “(III) In making determinations under subclause (I),
7 the Secretary shall use data from the cost report, or from
8 other data collected by the Secretary, of the provider for
9 such year.

10 “(IV) A provider may make an application for pay-
11 ment under this clause for a fiscal year no earlier than
12 the end of the cost reporting period beginning in such fis-
13 cal year.

14 “(V) The total amount of the additional payments
15 made to home health agencies pursuant to subclause (I)
16 in any fiscal year shall not be less than an amount equal
17 to 3 percent of the amounts that would have been paid
18 under this subparagraph in such year if this clause had
19 not been enacted and shall not exceed 4 percent of such
20 amounts.”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
22 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of enactment
23 of this Act, and apply with respect to each application for
24 payment of reasonable costs for outliers submitted by any

1 home health agency for cost reporting periods ending on
2 or after September 30, 1999.

3 **SEC. 4. RECOUPMENT OF OVERPAYMENTS.**

4 (a) 36-MONTH REPAYMENT PERIOD.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
6 graph (2), in the case of an overpayment by the Sec-
7 retary of Health and Human Services to a home
8 health agency for home health services furnished
9 during a cost reporting period beginning on or after
10 October 1, 1997, as a result of payment limitations
11 provided for under clause (v), (vi), or (viii) of section
12 1861(v)(1)(L) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
13 1395x(v)(1)(L)), the home health agency may elect
14 to repay the amount of such overpayment over a 36-
15 month period beginning on the date of notification
16 of such overpayment.

17 (2) EXCEPTION.—No home health agency may
18 make an election under paragraph (1) if any final
19 adverse action (as defined in section 1128E(g)(1))
20 has been taken against such agency.

21 (b) NO INTEREST ON OVERPAYMENT AMOUNTS.—In
22 the case of an agency that makes an election under sub-
23 section (a), no interest shall accrue on the outstanding
24 balance of the amount of overpayment during such 36-
25 month period.

1 (c) TERMINATION.—No election under subsection (a)
2 may be made for cost reporting periods, or portions of cost
3 reporting periods beginning on or after the date of the
4 implementation of the prospective payment system for
5 home health services under section 1895 of the Social Se-
6 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395fff).

7 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of subsection
8 (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the
9 Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

10 **SEC. 5. INCREASE IN PAYMENT AMOUNT TO AGENCIES**

11 **WITH LIMITS UNDER THE NATIONAL AVER-**
12 **AGE.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(v)(1)(L)(viii)(I) of
14 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
15 1395x(v)(1)(L)(viii)(I)), as added by section 5101(a)(3) of
16 the Tax and Trade Relief Extension Act of 1998 (con-
17 tained in Division J of Public Law 105–277), is amended
18 by striking “the limit otherwise imposed under clause (v)”
19 and all that follows through the period and inserting “the
20 limit for such provider and period shall be an amount
21 equal to—

22 “(aa) for cost reporting periods beginning dur-
23 ing fiscal year 1999, 90 percent of such median;

24 “(bb) for cost reporting periods beginning dur-
25 ing fiscal year 2000, 95 percent of such median; and

1 “(cc) for cost reporting periods beginning dur-
2 ing or after fiscal year 2001, such median.”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of subsection
4 (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the
5 Tax and Trade Relief Extension Act of 1998 (contained
6 in Division J of Public Law 105–277).

7 **SEC. 6. INCREASE IN PER VISIT LIMIT.**

8 Section 1861(v)(1)(L)(i) of the Social Security Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 1395x(v)(1)(L)(i)), as amended by section
10 5101(a) of the Tax and Trade Relief Extension Act of
11 1998 (contained in Division J of Public Law 105–277),
12 is amended—

13 (1) in subclause (IV), by striking “or”;

14 (2) in subclause (V)—

15 (A) by inserting “and before October 1,
16 1999,” after “October 1, 1998,”; and

17 (B) by striking the period and inserting “,
18 or”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(VI) October 1, 1999, 108 percent of such me-
21 dian.”.

1 **SEC. 7. ELIMINATION OF TIMEKEEPING REQUIREMENTS**
2 **UNDER THE PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM**
3 **FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCIES.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1895(c) of the Social Se-
5 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395fff(c)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “unless—” and all that follows
7 through “(1) the” and inserting “unless the”; and

8 (2) by striking “1835(a)(2)(A);” and all that
9 follows through the period and inserting
10 “1835(a)(2)(A).”.

11 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
12 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of enactment
13 of this Act.

14 **SEC. 8. PERIODIC INTERIM PAYMENT FOR CERTAIN HOME**
15 **HEALTH AGENCIES.**

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1815(e)(2)(D) of the So-
17 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395g(e)(2)(D)) is amended
18 by inserting “until the end of the 12-month period fol-
19 lowing the date that the prospective payment system for
20 such services is implemented pursuant to section 1895”
21 after “services”.

22 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 4603(b) of
23 the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–33)
24 is repealed.

25 (c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
26 this section shall take effect as if included in the enact-

1 ment of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law
2 105–33).

3 **SEC. 9. REVISION OF SURETY BOND REQUIREMENT FOR**
4 **HOME HEALTH AGENCIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(o) of the Social Se-
6 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(o)) is amended by inserting
7 after the first sentence the following: “The surety bond
8 required under paragraph (7) shall be used by the Sec-
9 retary to protect against overpayments made to an agency
10 based on fraudulent claims or behavior but shall not be
11 used to protect against overpayments that are not based
12 on such claims or behavior.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
14 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of enactment
15 of this Act.

16 **SEC. 10. EXCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL PART B COSTS FROM**
17 **DETERMINATION OF PART B MONTHLY PRE-**
18 **MIUM.**

19 Section 1839(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
20 1395r(g)) (as added by section 5101(e) of the Tax and
21 Trade Relief Extension Act of 1998 (contained in division
22 J of Public Law 105–277)) is amended by striking “sec-
23 tion 1861(v)(1)(L)(viii) or to the establishment under sec-
24 tion 1861(v)(1)(L)(i)(V) of a per visit limit at 106 percent
25 of the median (instead of 105 percent of the median)”

1 and inserting “clauses (viii) and (ix) of section
2 1861(v)(1)(L) or to the establishment under section
3 1861(v)(1)(L)(i)(V) of a per visit limit at 106 percent and
4 108 percent of the median (instead of 105 percent of the
5 median and 106 percent of the median, respectively)”.

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