

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2553

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of screening ultrasound for abdominal aortic aneurysms under part B of the medicare program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2004

Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. BUNNING)) 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 provide for coverage of screening ultrasound for abdominal aortic aneurysms under part B of 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 “Screening Abdominal
5 Aortic Aneurysms Very Efficiently Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF SCREENING**
2 **ULTRASOUND FOR ABDOMINAL AORTIC AN-**
3 **EURYSMS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861 of the Social Secu-
5 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x), as amended by sections 611,
6 612, 613, 642, and 706 of the Medicare Prescription
7 Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Pub-
8 lic Law 108–173), is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (s)(2)—

10 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
11 paragraph (Y);

12 (B) by adding “and” at the end of sub-
13 paragraph (Z); and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following new
15 subparagraph:

16 “(AA) screening ultrasound for abdominal aor-
17 tic aneurysm (as defined in subsection (bbb)) for an
18 individual who has not been previously furnished
19 such a screening ultrasound and who—

20 “(i) has a family history of abdominal aor-
21 tic aneurysm;

22 “(ii) manifests risk factors for cardio-
23 vascular disease (such as smoking or hyper-
24 tension);

25 “(iii) evidences atherosclerotic vascular dis-
26 ease; or

1 “(iv) has other risk factors for abdominal
2 aortic aneurysm as the Secretary may specify;”;

3 and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “Screening Ultrasound for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

7 “(bbb) The term ‘screening ultrasound for abdominal
8 aortic aneurysm’ means—

9 “(1) a procedure using sound waves (or such
10 other procedures using alternative technologies, of
11 commensurate accuracy and cost, that the Secretary
12 may specify) provided for the early detection of ab-
13 dominal aortic aneurysm, and

14 “(2) includes a physician’s interpretation of the
15 results of the procedure.”.

16 (b) INCLUSION OF SCREENING ULTRASOUND FOR
17 ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM IN SCREENING SERVICES
18 FOR WHICH EDUCATION, COUNSELING, AND REFERRAL
19 IS PROVIDED FOR UNDER BENEFITS FOR INITIAL PRE-
20 VENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.—Section 1861(ww)(2)
21 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ww)(2)), as
22 added by section 611(b) of the Medicare Prescription
23 Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Pub-
24 lic Law 108–173), is amended by adding at the end the
25 following new subparagraph:

1 “(L) Screening ultrasound for abdominal aortic
2 aneurysm as defined in section 1861(bbb).”.

3 (c) PAYMENT FOR SCREENING ULTRASOUND FOR
4 ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM.—Section 1848(j)(3) of
5 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(j)(3)) is
6 amended by inserting “(2)(AA)” after “(2)(W)”.

7 (d) FREQUENCY AND QUALITY STANDARDS.—Sec-
8 tion 1862(a)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)(1)), as
9 amended by sections 303, 611, 612, and 613 of the Medi-
10 care Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization
11 Act of 2003, is amended—

12 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
13 graph (L);

14 (2) by striking the semicolon at the end of sub-
15 paragraph (M) and inserting “; and”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
17 paragraph:

18 “(N) in the case of screening ultrasound for ab-
19 dominal aortic aneurysm—

20 “(i) which is performed more frequently
21 than is provided for under section
22 1861(s)(2)(AA); or

23 “(ii) which is performed by an individual
24 or diagnostic laboratory that does not meet
25 quality assurance standards established by the

1 Secretary, including with respect to individuals
2 performing screening ultrasound for abdominal
3 aortic aneurysm (other than physicians) and di-
4 agnostic laboratories, that the individual or lab-
5 oratory is certified by the appropriate State li-
6 censing or certification agency or, in the case of
7 service performed in a State that does not li-
8 cense or certify such individuals or laboratories,
9 by a national certification or accreditation orga-
10 nization recognized by the Secretary.”.

11 (e) NON-APPLICATION OF PART B DEDUCTIBLE.—
12 Section 1833(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(b)) is
13 amended—

14 (1) by striking “and” after “section 1861(jj),”;
15 and

16 (2) by inserting “, and (7) such deductible shall
17 not apply with respect to screening ultrasound for
18 abdominal aortic aneurysm (as defined in section
19 1861(bbb))” after “1861(nn)”.

20 (f) CONSULTATION IN ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALITY
21 ASSURANCE STANDARDS AND DESIGNATION OF RECOGNI-
22 TION OF NATIONAL ACCREDITATION ORGANIZATIONS.—
23 The Secretary shall consult with national medical, vas-
24 cular technologist and sonographer societies in estab-
25 lishing—

1 (1) risk factors under section 1861(s)(2)(A)(iv)
2 of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection
3 (a)(1)(C), and

4 (2) quality assurance standards under section
5 1862(a)(1)(N)(ii) of such Act, as added by sub-
6 section (d)(3).

7 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
8 this section shall apply to screening ultrasounds for ab-
9 dominal aortic aneurysm performed on or after January
10 1, 2005.

11 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATION CAM-**
12 **PAIGN.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—After consultation with national
14 medical, vascular technologist, and sonographer societies,
15 the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall carry
16 out a national education and information campaign to pro-
17 mote awareness among health care practitioners and the
18 general public with respect to the importance of early de-
19 tection and treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysms.

20 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may use
21 amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection to make
22 grants to national medical, vascular technologist, and
23 sonographer societies (in accordance with procedures and
24 criteria specified by the Secretary) to enable them to edu-

1 cate practitioners and providers about matters relating to
2 such aneurysms.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2005 and
5 each fiscal year thereafter such sums as may be necessary
6 to carry out this section.

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