

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8755

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the scope of practitioners eligible for payment for telehealth services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KIM, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SIRES, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. TONKO) 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 title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the scope of practitioners eligible for payment for telehealth services 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 “Expanded Telehealth
5 Access Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTITIONERS ELIGI-**
2 **BLE FOR PAYMENT FOR TELEHEALTH SERV-**
3 **ICES UNDER MEDICARE.**

4 (a) TELEHEALTH PROVIDER PARITY.—Section
5 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m))
6 is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by striking “or a practitioner (de-
9 scribed in section 1842(b)(18)(C))” and insert-
10 ing “or a professional described in paragraph
11 (4)(E)”; and

12 (B) by striking “individual physician or
13 practitioner” and inserting “individual physi-
14 cian or professional”;

15 (2) in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) by striking “practitioner” each place it
17 appears and inserting “professional” each such
18 place;

19 (B) by inserting before “located at a dis-
20 tant site” the following “(or, in the case of an
21 occupational therapy assistant described in
22 paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(II) or a physical therapist
23 assistant described in paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(II),
24 shall pay with respect to such assistant)”; and

25 (C) by inserting “(or, in the case of an oc-
26 cupational therapy assistant described in para-

1 graph (4)(E)(ii)(II) or a physical therapist as-
2 sistant described in paragraph (4)(E)(ii)(II),
3 the amount that would have been paid under
4 this title with respect to such assistant)” after
5 “would have been paid under this title”;

6 (3) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “or practi-
7 tioner” and inserting “or professional”; and

8 (4) in paragraph (4)—

9 (A) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (C),
10 by striking “or practitioner” and inserting “or
11 professional”; and

12 (B) by amending subparagraph (E) to read
13 as follows:

14 “(E) PROFESSIONAL DESCRIBED.—A pro-
15 fessional described in this subparagraph is—

16 “(i) a practitioner described in section
17 1842(b)(18)(C); or

18 “(ii) with respect to services furnished
19 on or after the date of enactment of the
20 Expanded Telehealth Access Act, a li-
21 censed—

22 “(I) audiologist;

23 “(II) occupational therapist and
24 occupational therapy assistant under

1 the supervision of an occupational
2 therapist;

3 “(III) physical therapist and
4 physical therapist assistant under the
5 supervision of a physical therapist;

6 “(IV) speech language patholo-
7 gist;

8 “(V) facility described in para-
9 graph (8) or (9) of section 1833(a)
10 that furnishes telehealth therapy serv-
11 ices; and

12 “(VI) any additional health care
13 provider, as specified by the Sec-
14 retary, who participates under this
15 title and furnishes a service that is in-
16 cluded as a telehealth service under
17 this subsection.”.

18 (b) ADDITIONAL COVERED TELEHEALTH SERV-
19 ICES.—Section 1834(m)(4)(F)(i) of the Social Security
20 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(4)(F)(i)) is amended by adding
21 at the end the following new sentence: “Such term shall
22 include, audiology services (as defined in section
23 1861(l)(3)) and outpatient therapy services (including
24 such services furnished by a therapy assistant (as defined
25 by the Secretary)), including physical therapy of the type

1 described in section 1861(p), occupational therapy of the
2 type that are described in section 1861(g), and speech-
3 language pathology services of the type described in sec-
4 tion 1861(ll)(2).”.

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