

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2620

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of glaucoma detection services under part B of the Medicare Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 1999

Mr. FOLEY (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. COOKSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on 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 provide for coverage of glaucoma detection services 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 “Medicare Glaucoma
5 Detection Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF GLAUCOMA DETECTION**

2 **TESTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861 of the Social Secu-
4 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (s)(2)—

6 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
7 paragraph (S),

8 (B) by striking the period at the end of
9 subparagraph (T) and inserting “; and”, and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following new
11 subparagraph:

12 “(U) glaucoma detection tests (as defined in
13 subsection (uu));”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 section:

16 “Glaucoma Detection Tests

17 “(uu) The term ‘glaucoma detection test’ means all
18 of the following conducted for the purpose of early detec-
19 tion of glaucoma:

20 “(1) A dilated eye examination with an intra-
21 ocular pressure measurement.

22 “(2) Direct ophthalmoscopy or slit-lamp bio-
23 microscopic examination.”.

24 (b) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY AND FREQUENCY.—
25 Section 1834 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended
26 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

1 “(m) LIMITATION ON COVERAGE OF GLAUCOMA DE-
2 TECTION TESTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
4 provision of this part, with respect to expenses in-
5 curred for glaucoma detection tests (as defined in
6 section 1861(uu)), payment may be made only for
7 glaucoma detection tests conducted—

8 “(A) for individuals described in paragraph
9 (2), and

10 “(B) consistent with the frequency per-
11 mitted under paragraph (3).

12 “(2) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFIT.—
13 Individuals described in this paragraph are as fol-
14 lows:

15 “(A) Individuals who are 65 years of age
16 or older.

17 “(B) Individuals who are 60 years of age
18 or older and who have a family history of glau-
19 coma.

20 “(C) Other individuals who are at high
21 risk (as determined by the Secretary) of devel-
22 oping glaucoma.

23 “(3) FREQUENCY LIMIT.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
25 graph (B), payment may not be made under

1 this part for glaucoma detection tests per-
2 formed for an individual within 23 months fol-
3 lowing the month in which glaucoma detection
4 tests were performed under this part for the in-
5 dividual.

6 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may
7 permit glaucoma detection tests to be covered
8 on a more frequent basis than that provided
9 under subparagraph (A) under such cir-
10 cumstances as the Secretary determines to be
11 appropriate.

12 (c) NO APPLICATION OF DEDUCTIBLE.—Section
13 1833(b)(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(b)(5)) is amend-
14 ed by inserting “or with respect to glaucoma detection
15 tests (as defined in section 1861(uu))” after “1861(jj))”.

16 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1862(a)
17 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (1)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (H), by striking
20 “and” at the end,

21 (B) in subparagraph (I), by striking the
22 semicolon at the end and inserting “, and”, and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following new
24 subparagraph:

1 “(J) in the case of glaucoma detection tests (as
2 defined in section 1861(uu)), which are performed
3 more frequently than is covered under section
4 1834(m)(3);” and

5 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking “or (H)” and
6 inserting “(H), or (I)”.

7 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
8 this section apply to tests provided on or after January
9 1, 2000.

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