

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 171

To amend the title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide payment to medicare ambulance suppliers of the full costs of providing such services, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 15, 2003

Mr. DAYTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide payment to medicare ambulance suppliers of the full costs of providing such 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 “Medicare Ambulance

5 Payment Reform Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMBULANCE PAYMENT RATES.**

7 (a) PAYMENT RATES.—

4 “(3) PAYMENT RATES.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to any adjust-
6 ment under subparagraph (B) and paragraph
7 (9) and the full payment of a national mileage
8 rate pursuant to paragraph (2)(E), in estab-
9 lishing such fee schedule, the following rules
10 shall apply:

1 other ground ambulance service levels
2 to be determined based on the rule es-
3 tablished under paragraph (1). For
4 the purposes of the preceding sen-
5 tence, the term 'full cost ambulance
6 supplier' means a supplier for which
7 volunteers or other unpaid staff com-
8 prise less than 20 percent of the sup-
9 plier's total staff and which receives
10 less than 20 percent of space and
11 other capital assets free of charge.

1 (b) USE OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS FOR CODING AM-
2 BULANCE SERVICES.—Section 1834(l)(7) of the Social Se-
3 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)(7)) is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 “(7) CODING SYSTEM.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall,
7 in accordance with section 1173(c)(1)(B), es-
8 tablish a system or systems for the coding of
9 claims for ambulance services for which pay-
10 ment is made under this subsection, including a
11 code set specifying the medical condition of the
12 individual who is transported and the level of
13 service that is appropriate for the transpor-
14 tation of an individual with that medical condi-
15 tion.

16 “(B) MEDICAL CONDITIONS.—The code set
17 established under subparagraph (A) shall—

18 “(i) take into account the list of med-
19 ical conditions developed in the course of
20 the negotiated rulemaking process con-
21 ducted under paragraph (1); and

22 “(ii) notwithstanding any other provi-
23 sion of law, be adopted as a standard code
24 set under section 1173(c).”.

