

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 379

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the medicare incentive payment program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2003

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. THOMAS) 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 improve
the medicare incentive payment 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 Incentive
5 Payment Program Improvement Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROCEDURES FOR SECRETARY, AND NOT PHYSI-**
2 **CIANS, TO DETERMINE WHEN BONUS PAY-**
3 **MENTS UNDER MEDICARE INCENTIVE PAY-**
4 **MENT PROGRAM SHOULD BE MADE.**

5 Section 1833(m) of the Social Security Act (42
6 U.S.C. 1395l(m)) is amended—

7 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(m)”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following new
9 paragraph:

10 “(2) The Secretary shall establish procedures under
11 which the Secretary, and not the physician furnishing the
12 service, is responsible for determining when a payment is
13 required to be made under paragraph (1).”.

14 **SEC. 3. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM REGARDING THE MEDI-**
15 **CARE INCENTIVE PAYMENT PROGRAM.**

16 The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
17 establish and implement an ongoing educational program
18 to provide education to physicians under the medicare pro-
19 gram on the medicare incentive payment program under
20 section 1833(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
21 1395l(m)).

22 **SEC. 4. ONGOING STUDY AND ANNUAL REPORT ON THE**
23 **MEDICARE INCENTIVE PAYMENT PROGRAM.**

24 (a) ONGOING STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and
25 Human Services shall conduct an ongoing study on the
26 medicare incentive payment program under section

1 1833(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(m)).
2 Such study shall focus on whether such program increases
3 the access of medicare beneficiaries who reside in an area
4 that is designated (under section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Pub-
5 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e(a)(1)(A))) as a
6 health professional shortage area to physicians' services
7 under the medicare program.

8 (b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
10 the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit
11 to Congress a report on the study conducted under sub-
12 section (a), together with recommendations for such legis-
13 lation and administrative actions as the Secretary con-
14 siders appropriate.

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