

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 390

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. BUNNING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of ultrasound screening 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 2005”.

6       **SEC. 2. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF ULTRASOUND SCREEN-**  
7       **ING FOR ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSMS.**

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

1 (1) in subsection (s)(2)—

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

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

6 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
7 subparagraph:

8 “(AA) ultrasound screening for abdominal aor-  
9 tic aneurysm (as defined in subsection (bbb)) for an  
10 individual who has not been previously furnished  
11 such ultrasound screening and who—

12 “(i) has a family history of abdominal aor-  
13 tic aneurysm;

14 “(ii) manifests risk factors for cardio-  
15 vascular disease (such as smoking or hyper-  
16 tension);

17 “(iii) evidences atherosclerotic vascular dis-  
18 ease; or

19 “(iv) has other risk factors for abdominal  
20 aortic aneurysm as the Secretary may specify;”;  
21 and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
23 section:

1 “Ultrasound Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

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

4 “(1) a procedure using sound waves (or such  
5 other procedures using alternative technologies, of  
6 commensurate accuracy and cost, that the Secretary  
7 may specify) for the early detection of abdominal  
8 aortic aneurysm; and

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

11 (b) INCLUSION OF ULTRASOUND SCREENING FOR  
12 ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM IN SCREENING SERVICES  
13 FOR WHICH EDUCATION, COUNSELING, AND REFERRAL  
14 IS PROVIDED FOR UNDER BENEFITS FOR INITIAL PRE-  
15 VENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.—Section 1861(ww)(2)  
16 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ww)(2)) is  
17 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-  
18 graph:

19 “(L) Ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic  
20 aneurysm as defined in section 1861(bbb).”.

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

1 (d) FREQUENCY AND QUALITY STANDARDS.—Sec-  
2 tion 1862(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
3 1395m(a)(1)) is amended—

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

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

8 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
9 paragraph:

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

12 “(i) which is performed more frequently  
13 than is provided for under section  
14 1861(s)(2)(AA); or

15 “(ii) which is performed by an individual  
16 or diagnostic laboratory that does not meet  
17 quality assurance standards established by the  
18 Secretary, including with respect to individuals  
19 performing ultrasound screening for abdominal  
20 aortic aneurysm (other than physicians) and di-  
21 agnostic laboratories, that the individual or lab-  
22 oratory is certified by the appropriate State li-  
23 censing or certification agency or, in the case of  
24 service performed in a State that does not li-  
25 cense or certify such individuals or laboratories,

1 by a national certification or accreditation orga-  
 2 nization recognized by the Secretary.”.

3 (e) NON-APPLICATION OF PART B DEDUCTIBLE.—  
 4 Section 1833(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
 5 1395l(b)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “and” after “section 1861(jj),”;  
 7 and

8 (2) by inserting “, and (7) such deductible shall  
 9 not apply with respect to ultrasound screening for  
 10 abdominal aortic aneurysm (as defined in section  
 11 1861(bbb))” after “1861(nn))”.

12 (f) CONSULTATION IN ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALITY  
 13 ASSURANCE STANDARDS AND DESIGNATION OF RECOGNI-  
 14 TION OF NATIONAL ACCREDITATION ORGANIZATIONS.—  
 15 The Secretary shall consult with national medical, vas-  
 16 cular technologist, and sonographer societies in estab-  
 17 lishing—

18 (1) risk factors under section  
 19 1861(s)(2)(AA)(iv) of the Social Security Act, as  
 20 added by subsection (a)(1)(C); and

21 (2) quality assurance standards under section  
 22 1862(a)(1)(N)(ii) of such Act, as added by sub-  
 23 section (d)(3).

24 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 25 this section shall apply to ultrasounds screening for ab-

1 dominal aortic aneurysm performed on or after January  
2 1, 2006.

3 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATION CAM-**  
4 **PAIGN.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—After consultation with national  
6 medical, vascular technologist, and sonographer societies,  
7 the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall carry  
8 out a national education and information campaign to pro-  
9 mote awareness among health care practitioners and the  
10 general public with respect to the importance of early de-  
11 tection and treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysms.

12 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may use  
13 amounts appropriated pursuant to this section to make  
14 grants to national medical, vascular technologist, and  
15 sonographer societies (in accordance with procedures and  
16 criteria specified by the Secretary) to enable them to edu-  
17 cate practitioners and providers about matters relating to  
18 such aneurysms.

19 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
20 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2006 and  
21 each fiscal year thereafter such sums as may be necessary  
22 to carry out this section.

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