

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2364

To permit occupational therapists to conduct the initial assessment visit under a Medicare home health plan of care for certain rehabilitation cases.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 8, 2015

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

A BILL

To permit occupational therapists to conduct the initial assessment visit under a Medicare home health plan of care for certain rehabilitation cases.

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 Home Health
5 Flexibility Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERMITTING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS TO CON-**
 2 **DUCT THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT VISIT**
 3 **UNDER A MEDICARE HOME HEALTH PLAN OF**
 4 **CARE FOR CERTAIN REHABILITATION CASES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
 6 484.55(a)(2) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, or
 7 any other provision of law, an occupational therapist may
 8 conduct the initial assessment visit for an individual who
 9 is eligible for home health services under title XVIII of
 10 the Social Security Act if the referral order by the physi-
 11 cian—

- 12 (1) does not include skilled nursing care;
- 13 (2) includes occupation therapy; and
- 14 (3) includes physical therapy or speech lan-
 15 guage pathology.

16 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
 17 section (a) shall be construed to provide for initial eligi-
 18 bility for coverage of home health services under title
 19 XVIII of the Social Security Act solely on the basis of
 20 a need for occupational therapy.

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