

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9138

To expand psychological mental and behavioral health services to Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries by permitting reimbursement of psychological services provided by certain supervised psychology trainees, and facilitating the reimbursement of those services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2024

Mr. BALDERSON (for himself, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, and Ms. DELBENE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and 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 expand psychological mental and behavioral health services to Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries by permitting reimbursement of psychological services provided by certain supervised psychology trainees, and facilitating the reimbursement of those services.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Accelerating the Devel-
3 opment of Advanced Psychology Trainees Act” or the
4 “ADAPT Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. COVERAGE AND CODING FOR QUALIFIED PSYCHOL-
6 OGIST SERVICES FURNISHED BY ADVANCED
7 PSYCHOLOGY TRAINEES UNDER THE MEDI-
8 CARE PROGRAM.**

9 (a) COVERAGE.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(ii) of the So-
11 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ii)) is amend-
12 ed—

13 (A) by inserting “(1)” after “(ii)”;

14 (B) in paragraph (1), as added by para-
15 graph (1) of this section, by inserting “(or fur-
16 nished by an advanced psychology trainee under
17 the general supervision of a clinical psychologist
18 (as so defined) and billed by the supervising
19 psychologist)” after “(as defined by the Sec-
20 retary)”;

21 (C) by adding at the end the following new
22 paragraph:

23 “(2) In this subsection:

24 “(A) The term ‘advanced psychology trainee’
25 means—

1 “(i) a doctoral intern who is completing a
2 required period of supervised experiential train-
3 ing through a program accredited by the Amer-
4 ican Psychological Association, not less than
5 one year in duration, before being awarded a
6 doctoral degree; or

7 “(ii) a postdoctoral resident who has ob-
8 tained a doctoral degree in psychology, is seek-
9 ing a license to practice psychology, and is en-
10 gaged in a 1- or 2-year period of additional su-
11 pervised experiential training to acquire the
12 skills or hours required for licensure through a
13 program accredited by the American Psycho-
14 logical Association or a member of the Associa-
15 tion of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship
16 Centers.

17 “(B) The term ‘general supervision’ means,
18 with respect to a service, that the service is fur-
19 nished under the overall direction and control of a
20 clinical psychologist (as defined for purposes of
21 paragraph (1)), but the supervising psychologist’s
22 presence is not required during the furnishing of the
23 service.”.

24 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
25 by this subsection shall apply to services furnished

1 on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of
2 the enactment of this Act.

3 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF GC MODIFIER CODE.—Not
4 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
5 Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
6 develop a “GC” modifier code to identify and accurately
7 bill for services furnished by an advanced psychology
8 trainee pursuant to the amendments made by subsection
9 (a).

10 **SEC. 3. GUIDANCE TO STATES ON COVERAGE OF SERVICES**

11 **PROVIDED BY ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY**

12 **TRAINEES UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.**

13 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services
15 shall issue and disseminate guidance to States on strate-
16 gies to overcome existing barriers to coverage of services
17 furnished by advanced psychology trainees (as defined
18 under section 1861(ii)(2) of the Social Security Act, as
19 added by section 2(a), through the Medicaid program
20 under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
21 1396 et seq.) and the Children’s Health Insurance Pro-
22 gram under title XXI of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et
23 seq.)). Such guidance shall include technical assistance
24 and best practices regarding each of the following:

1 (1) Recommended legal mechanisms for acti-
2 vating coverage of services furnished by advanced
3 psychology trainees under such programs.

4 (2) Recommended billing codes and code modi-
5 fiers for services furnished by advanced psychology
6 trainees.

7 (3) Examples of States that have used waivers
8 under the Medicaid program or Children's Health
9 Insurance Program to enable coverage of services
10 furnished by advanced psychology trainees under
11 such programs.

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