

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9446

To provide payment for patient navigator services under title XIX of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide payment for patient navigator services under title XIX of the Social Security Act, 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 “Patient Navigation As-
5 sistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR PATIENT NAVIGATOR**
7 **SERVICES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(a) of the Social Se-
9 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (86), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (87), by striking at the end
4 the period and inserting “; and”;

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (87) the fol-
6 lowing new paragraph:

7 “(88) provide that the State shall reimburse an
8 eligible entity (as defined in subsection (tt)(1)) for
9 any patient navigator service (as defined in sub-
10 section (tt)(3)) that is provided—

11 “(A) to an individual who is eligible for
12 medical assistance under the State plan; and

13 “(B) by a patient navigator (as defined in
14 subsection (tt)(2)) through the eligible entity.”;

15 and

16 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
17 section:

18 “(tt) PATIENT NAVIGATOR SERVICES DEFINI-
19 TIONS.—For purposes of this section:

20 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
21 tity’ means an entity that—

22 “(A) is an eligible entity (as defined in
23 subsection (l)(1) of section 340A of the Public
24 Health Service Act); and

1 “(B) complies with the following require-
2 ments of such section (insofar as they apply to
3 a grant recipient under such section):

4 “(i) Subsection (b) (relating to patient
5 navigator duties and community knowl-
6 edge).

7 “(ii) Subsection (c) (relating to prohi-
8 bitions).

9 “(iii) Subsection (e) (relating to appli-
10 cations).

11 “(iv) Subsection (j)(3) (relating to re-
12 ports).

13 “(2) PATIENT NAVIGATOR.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘patient
15 navigator’ means an individual who—

16 “(i) is employed by a health care or
17 community-based organization and pro-
18 vides individualized education and re-
19 sources to facilitate informed decision-mak-
20 ing and timely access to quality health and
21 psychosocial care; and

22 “(ii) has obtained and complies with
23 education, licensure, or certification, in-
24 cluding at least—

1 “(I) a bachelor’s degree in nurs-
2 ing from an accredited university,
3 master’s degree in social work from
4 an accredited university, or bachelor’s
5 degree in a health-related field from
6 an accredited university;

7 “(II) licensing and certification
8 requirements for a registered nurse,
9 social work, or clinical practitioner, as
10 applicable, and scope of practice re-
11 quirements, as defined by the State or
12 jurisdiction in which the individual is
13 licensed or certified;

14 “(III) completion of competency-
15 based navigation training sessions or
16 courses for clinical or non-clinical pro-
17 fessionals, as applicable; or

18 “(IV) subject to subparagraph
19 (B), completion of a training program
20 approved by the Secretary for pur-
21 poses of section 340A(l)(3) of the
22 Public Health Service Act.

23 “(B) TRANSITIONAL LIMITATION.—The
24 training described in subclause (IV) of subpara-
25 graph (A)(ii) shall not satisfy the requirement

1 of subparagraph (A)(ii) after the date that is 3
2 years after the date on which the provisions of
3 this subsection apply to patient navigator serv-
4 ices pursuant to section 2(c) of the Patient
5 Navigator Assistance Act.

6 “(3) PATIENT NAVIGATOR SERVICES.—The
7 term ‘patient navigator service’ means a service pro-
8 vided by a patient navigator to an individual, includ-
9 ing—

10 “(A) referrals and related activities to help
11 the individual obtain needed services, including
12 activities that help link the individual with med-
13 ical, social, logistical, financial, or other pro-
14 grams or services to address identified or speci-
15 fied needs of the individual;

16 “(B) services specified under paragraphs
17 (1) through (6) of subsection (b) of section
18 340A of the Public Health Service Act; and

19 “(C) other services specified by the Sec-
20 retary.”.

21 (b) TREATMENT AS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PUR-
22 POSES OF FMAP.—Section 1905(a) of the Social Security
23 Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (30), by striking “and” at the
25 end;

1 (2) by redesignating paragraph (31) as para-
2 graph (32); and

3 (3) by inserting after paragraph (30) the fol-
4 lowing new paragraph:

5 “(31) patient navigator services (as defined in
6 section 1902(tt)(3)) that are provided in a manner
7 that meets the requirements of section 1902(a)(88);
8 and”.

9 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
11 the amendments made by this section shall apply to
12 patient navigator services provided after the first
13 day of the first calendar year that begins after the
14 date of enactment of this Act.

15 (2) EXCEPTION FOR STATE LEGISLATION.—In
16 the case of a State plan under title XIX of the So-
17 cial Security Act, which the Secretary of Health and
18 Human Services determines requires State legisla-
19 tion in order for the respective plan to meet any re-
20 quirement imposed by amendments made by this
21 Act, the respective plan shall not be regarded as fail-
22 ing to comply with the requirements of such title
23 solely on the basis of its failure to meet such an ad-
24 ditional requirement before the first day of the first
25 calendar quarter beginning after the close of the

1 first regular session of the State legislature that be-
2 gins after the date of enactment of this Act. For
3 purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a
4 State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year
5 of the session shall be considered to be a separate
6 regular session of the State legislature.

○