



118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

1 **SEC. 2. COVERAGE AND CODING FOR QUALIFIED PSYCHOL-**
2 **OGIST SERVICES FURNISHED BY ADVANCED**
3 **PSYCHOLOGY TRAINEES UNDER THE MEDI-**
4 **CARE PROGRAM.**

5 (a) COVERAGE.—

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

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

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

17 (C) by adding at the end the following new
18 paragraph:

19 “(2) In this subsection:

20 “(A) The term ‘advanced psychology trainee’
21 means—

22 “(i) a doctoral intern who is completing a
23 required period of supervised experiential train-
24 ing through a program accredited by the Amer-
25 ican Psychological Association, not less than

1 one year in duration, before being awarded a
2 doctoral degree; or

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

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

20 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
21 by this subsection shall apply to services furnished
22 on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of
23 the enactment of this Act.

24 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF GC MODIFIER CODE.—Not
25 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this

1 Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
2 develop a “GC” modifier code to identify and accurately
3 bill for services furnished by an advanced psychology
4 trainee pursuant to the amendments made by subsection
5 (a).

6 **SEC. 3. GUIDANCE TO STATES ON COVERAGE OF SERVICES**
7 **PROVIDED BY ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY**
8 **TRAINEES UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.**

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

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

1 (2) Recommended billing codes and code modi-
2 fiers for services furnished by advanced psychology
3 trainees.

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