

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 829

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to refine how Medicare pays for orthotics and prosthetics and to improve beneficiary experience and outcomes with orthotic and prosthetic care, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 23, 2015

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. WARNER) 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 refine how Medicare pays for orthotics and prosthetics and to improve beneficiary experience and outcomes with orthotic and prosthetic care, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Medicare Orthotics and Prosthetics Improvement Act of  
6 2015”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The Table of Contents  
8 for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Modification of requirements applicable under Medicare to the designation of accreditation organizations for suppliers of orthotics and prosthetics.
- Sec. 3. Application of existing accreditation and licensure requirements to certain prosthetics and custom-fabricated or custom-fitted orthotics.
- Sec. 4. Eligibility for Medicare payment for orthotics and prosthetics based on supplier qualifications and complexity of care.
- Sec. 5. Orthotist's and prosthetist's clinical notes as part of the patient's medical record.
- Sec. 6. Distinguishing orthotists and prosthetists from suppliers of durable medical equipment and supplies.
- Sec. 7. Clarification about minimal self-adjustment for off-the-shelf orthotics.
- Sec. 8. Regulations.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE**  
 2 **UNDER MEDICARE TO THE DESIGNATION OF**  
 3 **ACCREDITATION ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUP-**  
 4 **PLIERS OF ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834(a)(20)(B) of the So-  
 6 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)(20)(B)) is amend-  
 7 ed—

8 (1) by striking “ORGANIZATIONS.—Not later  
 9 than” and inserting: “ORGANIZATIONS.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause  
 11 (ii), not later than”; and

12 (2) by adding after clause (i), as added by  
 13 paragraph (1), the following new clauses:

14 “(ii) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR  
 15 ACCREDITATION OF SUPPLIERS OF  
 16 ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS.—For pur-  
 17 poses of applying quality standards under  
 18 subparagraph (A) for suppliers (other than

1 suppliers described in clause (iii)) of items  
2 and services described in subparagraph  
3 (D)(ii), the Secretary shall designate and  
4 approve independent accreditation organi-  
5 zations under clause (i) only if such orga-  
6 nizations are Boards or programs de-  
7 scribed in subsection (h)(1)(F)(iv). Not  
8 later than January 1, 2016, the Secretary  
9 shall ensure that at least one, and ideally  
10 multiple, independent accreditation organi-  
11 zations are designated and approved in ac-  
12 cordance with this clause.

13 “(iii) EXCEPTION.—Suppliers de-  
14 scribed in this clause are physicians, occu-  
15 pational therapists, or physical therapists  
16 who are licensed or otherwise regulated by  
17 the State in which they are practicing and  
18 who receive payment under this title, in-  
19 cluding regulations promulgated pursuant  
20 to this subsection.”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Each organization must sat-  
22 isfy the requirement of section 1834(a)(20)(B)(ii), as  
23 added by subsection (a)(2), not later than January 1,  
24 2016, regardless of whether the organization is designated

1 or approved as an independent accreditation organization  
 2 before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 3. APPLICATION OF EXISTING ACCREDITATION AND**  
 4 **LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS TO CERTAIN**  
 5 **PROSTHETICS AND CUSTOM-FABRICATED OR**  
 6 **CUSTOM-FITTED ORTHOTICS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834(h)(1)(F) of the So-  
 8 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(h)(1)(F)) is amend-  
 9 ed—

10 (1) in the heading, by inserting “OR CUSTOM-  
 11 FITTED” after “CUSTOM-FABRICATED”;

12 (2) in clause (i), by striking “an item of cus-  
 13 tom-fabricated orthotics described in clause (ii) or  
 14 for an item of prosthetics unless such item is” and  
 15 inserting “an item of orthotics or prosthetics, includ-  
 16 ing an item of custom-fabricated orthotics described  
 17 in clause (ii), unless such item is”;

18 (3) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “a list of items  
 19 to which this subparagraph applies” and inserting  
 20 “a list of items for purposes of clause (i)”;

21 (4) in clause (iii)(III), by striking “to provide  
 22 or manage the provision of prosthetics and custom-  
 23 designed or -fabricated orthotics” and inserting “to  
 24 provide or manage the provision of orthotics and  
 25 prosthetics (and custom-designed or -fabricated

1 orthotics, in the case of an item described in clause  
2 (ii)”; and

3 (5) by adding at the end the following new  
4 clause:

5 “(v) EXEMPTION OF OFF-THE-SHELF  
6 ORTHOTICS INCLUDED IN A COMPETITIVE  
7 ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—This subpara-  
8 graph shall not apply to an item of  
9 orthotics described in paragraph (2)(C) of  
10 section 1847(a) furnished on or after Jan-  
11 uary 1, 2016, that is included in a com-  
12 petitive acquisition area under such sec-  
13 tion.”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
15 subsection (a) shall apply to orthotics and prosthetics fur-  
16 nished on or after January 1, 2016.

17 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICARE PAYMENT FOR**  
18 **ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS BASED ON**  
19 **SUPPLIER QUALIFICATIONS AND COM-**  
20 **PLEXITY OF CARE.**

21 Section 1834(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
22 1395m(h)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1)(F)(iii), in the matter pre-  
24 ceding subclause (I), by striking “other individual  
25 who” and inserting “other individual who, with re-

1 spect to the provision of orthotics and prosthetics  
2 furnished on or after January 1, 2016, and subject  
3 to paragraph (5)(A), satisfies all applicable criteria  
4 of the provider qualification designation for such  
5 orthotic or prosthetic, and who”;

6 (2) in paragraph (1)(F)(iv), by inserting before  
7 the period the following: “and, with respect to the  
8 provision of orthotics and prosthetics furnished on  
9 or after January 1, 2016, and subject to paragraph  
10 (5)(A), satisfies all applicable criteria of the provider  
11 qualification designation for such orthotic or pros-  
12 thetic”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
14 paragraph:

15 “(5) ELIGIBILITY FOR PAYMENT BASED ON  
16 SUPPLIER QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPLEXITY OF  
17 CARE.—

18 “(A) CONSIDERATIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY  
19 FOR PAYMENTS.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In applying  
21 clauses (iii) and (iv) of paragraph (1)(F)  
22 for purposes of determining whether pay-  
23 ment may be made under this subsection  
24 for orthotics and prosthetics furnished on  
25 or after January 1, 2016, the Secretary

1 shall take into account the complexity of  
2 the respective item and, subject to clauses  
3 (ii), (iii), and (iv), the qualifications of the  
4 individual or entity furnishing and fabri-  
5 cating such respective item in accordance  
6 with this paragraph.

7 “(ii) INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES EX-  
8 EMPTED FROM SUPPLIER QUALIFICATION  
9 CRITERIA.—With respect to the provision  
10 of orthotics or prosthetics, any criteria for  
11 supplier qualifications shall not apply to  
12 physicians, occupational therapists, or  
13 physical therapists who are licensed or oth-  
14 erwise regulated by the State in which they  
15 are practicing and who receive payment  
16 under this title, including regulations pro-  
17 mulgated pursuant to this subsection, for  
18 the provision of orthotics and prosthetics.

19 “(iii) SUPPLIERS MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE  
20 PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2016, EXEMPTED.—  
21 In the case of a qualified supplier who is  
22 eligible to receive payment under this title  
23 before January 1, 2016, with respect to  
24 the provision of orthotics and prosthetics,  
25 any new criteria for provider qualifications

1 established after such date shall not apply  
2 to such supplier, for the furnishing or fab-  
3 rication of such an item.

4 “(iv) MODIFICATIONS.—The Secretary  
5 shall, in consultation with the Boards and  
6 programs described in paragraph  
7 (1)(F)(iv), periodically review the criteria  
8 for supplier qualifications and may imple-  
9 ment by regulation any modifications to  
10 such criteria, as determined appropriate in  
11 accordance with such consultation. Any  
12 such modifications shall take effect no ear-  
13 lier than January 1, 2016.

14 “(B) ASSIGNMENT OF BILLING CODES.—  
15 For purposes of subparagraph (A), the Sec-  
16 retary, in consultation with representatives of  
17 the fields of occupational therapy, physical ther-  
18 apy, orthotics, and prosthetics, shall utilize and  
19 incorporate the set of L-codes listed, as of the  
20 date of enactment of this paragraph, in the  
21 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services docu-  
22 ment entitled ‘Transmittal 656’ (CMS Pub.  
23 100–04, Change Request 3959, August 19,  
24 2005). Transmittal 656 shall be the controlling  
25 source of category, product, and code assign-



1           ments for the orthotics and prosthetics care,  
2           using the supplier qualification designation for  
3           each HCPCS code as stated in such document.  
4           In the case that Transmittal 656 is updated,  
5           reissued, or replaced by a subsequent document,  
6           the preceding sentence shall be applied with re-  
7           spect to the most recent update, reissuance, or  
8           replacement of such document.”.

9   **SEC. 5. ORTHOTIST’S AND PROSTHETIST’S CLINICAL NOTES**  
10                   **AS PART OF THE PATIENT’S MEDICAL**  
11                   **RECORD.**

12           Section 1834(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
13 1395m(h)), as amended by section 4, is amended by add-  
14 ing at the end the following new paragraph:

15           “(6)       DOCUMENTATION       CREATED       BY  
16           ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS.—With respect to  
17           claims filed after August 11, 2011, for purposes of  
18           determining the reasonableness, medical necessity,  
19           and functional level (applicable to prosthetics) of  
20           prosthetic devices and orthotics and prosthetics, doc-  
21           umentation created by an orthotist or prosthetist  
22           shall be considered part of the patient’s medical  
23           record and, consistent with the treatment of orthotic  
24           and prosthetic patient care delivery stated in the  
25           health care professional exception provided in clause

1 (ii) of subsection (a)(20)(F), shall be given the same  
 2 consideration as documentation created by other  
 3 health professionals, including physicians, nurse  
 4 practitioners, occupational therapists, and physical  
 5 therapists.”.

6 **SEC. 6. DISTINGUISHING ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS**  
 7 **FROM SUPPLIERS OF DURABLE MEDICAL**  
 8 **EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.**

9 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLIERS OF MEDICAL  
 10 EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.—Section 1834(j)(5) of the  
 11 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(j)(5)) is amended  
 12 by striking subparagraph (C).

13 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ORTHOTISTS AND  
 14 PROSTHETISTS.—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act  
 15 (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the  
 16 following new subsection:

17 “(r) REQUIREMENTS FOR ORTHOTISTS AND  
 18 PROSTHETISTS.—

19 “(1) ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL OF SUPPLIER  
 20 NUMBER.—

21 “(A) PAYMENT.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—No payment may  
 23 be made under this part to an orthotic or  
 24 prosthetic supplier unless such orthotic or  
 25 prosthetic supplier obtains (and renews at

1 such intervals as the Secretary may re-  
2 quire) a supplier number.

3 “(ii) CLARIFICATION REGARDING PRO-  
4 VIDERS UNDER PART A.—Nothing in  
5 clause (i) shall prohibit a provider other-  
6 wise permitted to receive payment for  
7 orthotics and prosthetics under part A  
8 from continuing to receive payment under  
9 such part without interruption.

10 “(B) STANDARDS FOR POSSESSING A SUP-  
11 PLIER NUMBER.—An orthotic or prosthetic sup-  
12 plier may only obtain a supplier number if the  
13 supplier meets standards prescribed by the Sec-  
14 retary that include requirements that the  
15 orthotic or prosthetic supplier (and, where ap-  
16 plicable, the orthotist or prosthetist)—

17 “(i) complies with all applicable State  
18 and Federal licensure and regulatory re-  
19 quirements;

20 “(ii) acquires accreditation from the  
21 American Board for Certification in  
22 Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Inc.  
23 (ABC) or the Board of Certification/Ac-  
24 creditation, International (BOC), or other  
25 accreditation entity that the Secretary de-

1           termines has standards that are essentially  
2           equivalent to the standards of such  
3           Boards;

4           “(iii) maintains a physical facility on  
5           an appropriate site;

6           “(iv) has proof of appropriate liability  
7           insurance; and

8           “(v) meets such other requirements as  
9           the Secretary shall specify.

10           “(C) PROHIBITION AGAINST MULTIPLE  
11           SUPPLIER NUMBERS.—The Secretary may not  
12           issue more than one supplier number to any  
13           orthotic or prosthetic supplier unless the Sec-  
14           retary finds that the issuance of more than one  
15           number is appropriate to identify other entities  
16           under the ownership or control of the orthotic  
17           or prosthetic supplier.

18           “(2) ORDER FOR ORTHOTICS OR PROS-  
19           THETICS.—

20           “(A) INFORMATION PROVIDED BY  
21           ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS ON DETAILED  
22           WRITTEN ORDERS FOR ORTHOTICS AND PROS-  
23           THETICS.—An orthotist or prosthetist may dis-  
24           tribute to physicians, or to an individual en-  
25           rolled under this part, a detailed written order

1 for orthotics or prosthetics (as defined in para-  
2 graph (5)) for commercial purposes that con-  
3 tains the following information:

4 “(i) The identification of—

5 “(I) the orthotic or prosthetic  
6 supplier; and

7 “(II) the individual to whom the  
8 orthotics or prosthetics are furnished.

9 “(ii) The identification of the treating  
10 physician, including the name, address,  
11 and telephone number of the physician.

12 “(iii) A description of the orthotics or  
13 prosthetics ordered.

14 “(iv) Any billing code identifying the  
15 orthotics or prosthetics.

16 “(v) Diagnosis codes, a description of  
17 the individual’s medical and functional  
18 condition, and information about the need  
19 for the orthotics or prosthetics.

20 “(B) INFORMATION ON CODING AND  
21 DESCRIPTORS OF COMPONENTS PROVIDED.—If  
22 an orthotist or prosthetist distributes a detailed  
23 written order for orthotics or prosthetics de-  
24 scribed in subparagraph (A), the orthotist or  
25 prosthetist shall also list on the order the

1 HCPCS codes and summary descriptors of the  
2 items and services being recommended prior to  
3 submission of the order to the treating physi-  
4 cian for approval.

5 “(C) SIGNATURE BY TREATING PHYSI-  
6 CIAN.—A detailed written order for orthotics or  
7 prosthetics described in subparagraph (A) shall  
8 be signed by the treating physician.

9 “(3) LIMITATION ON INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY.—  
10 Except as provided in paragraph (4), if an orthotist  
11 or prosthetist—

12 “(A) furnishes an orthosis or prosthesis to  
13 an individual for which no payment may be  
14 made under this part; or

15 “(B) subject to section 1879, furnishes an  
16 orthosis or prosthesis to an individual for which  
17 payment is denied under section 1862(a)(1),

18 any expenses incurred for the orthosis or prosthesis  
19 furnished to an individual by the orthotist or pros-  
20 thetist not on an assigned basis shall be the respon-  
21 sibility of such orthotist or prosthetist. The indi-  
22 vidual shall have no financial responsibility for such  
23 expenses and the orthotist or prosthetist shall refund  
24 on a timely basis to the individual (and shall be lia-  
25 ble to the individual for) any amounts collected from

1 the individual for such items and services. The pro-  
2 visions of subsection (a)(18) shall apply to refunds  
3 required under the previous sentence in the same  
4 manner as such provisions apply to refunds under  
5 such subsection.

6 “(4) INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY.—If an orthotist or  
7 prosthetist furnishes an orthosis or prosthesis to an  
8 individual for which payment is denied in advance  
9 under subsection (a)(15), expenses incurred for such  
10 orthosis or prosthesis furnished to the individual by  
11 the orthotist or prosthetist shall be the responsibility  
12 of the individual.

13 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

14 “(A) DETAILED WRITTEN ORDER FOR  
15 ORTHOTICS OR PROSTHETICS.—The term ‘de-  
16 tailed written order for orthotics or prosthetics’  
17 means a form or other document prepared by  
18 an orthotist or prosthetist and signed by the  
19 physician (as defined by section 1861(r)) that  
20 contains information required by the Secretary  
21 to be submitted to show that an orthosis or  
22 prosthesis is reasonable and necessary for the  
23 treatment of an illness or injury or to improve  
24 the functioning of a malformed body member.

1           “(B) ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS.—The  
2 term ‘orthotics and prosthetics’ has the mean-  
3 ing given that term in section 1834(h)(4)(C).

4           “(C) ORTHOTIST OR PROSTHETIST.—The  
5 term ‘orthotist or prosthetist’ means an indi-  
6 vidual who is specifically trained and educated  
7 in the provision of, and patient care manage-  
8 ment related to, prosthetics and custom-fab-  
9 ricated or custom-fit orthotics, and—

10           “(i) in the case of a State that pro-  
11 vides for the licensing of orthotists and  
12 prosthetists, is licensed by the State in  
13 which the orthotics or prosthetics were  
14 supplied; or

15           “(ii) in the case of a State that does  
16 not provide for the licensing of orthotists  
17 and prosthetists, is certified by the Amer-  
18 ican Board of Certification in Orthotics,  
19 Prosthetics and Pedorthics, Inc. or by the  
20 Board of Certification/Accreditation, Inter-  
21 national, or is certified and approved by an  
22 entity that the Secretary determines has  
23 certification and approval standards that  
24 are essentially equivalent to the certifi-



1 cation and approval standards of such  
2 Boards.”.

3 (c) DEFINITION OF ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS  
4 SYNONYMOUS WITH ORTHOSES AND PROSTHESES.—Sec-  
5 tion 1834(h)(4)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
6 1395m(h)(4)(C)) is amended by inserting “(which may  
7 also be referred to without distinction as ‘orthoses and  
8 prostheses’)” after “the term ‘orthotics and prosthetics’”.

9 (d) LIMITATION OF COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION FOR  
10 OFF-THE-SHELF ORTHOTICS.—Section 1847(a)(7)(A)(i)  
11 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-  
12 3(a)(7)(A)(i)) is amended—

13 (1) by inserting “, orthotist or prosthetist (as  
14 defined in section 1834(r)(5)(C)),” after “by a phy-  
15 sician”;

16 (2) by inserting “, orthotist’s or prosthetist’s,”  
17 after “to the physician’s”; and

18 (3) by inserting “, orthotist’s or prosthetist’s,”  
19 after “of the physician’s”.

20 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
21 this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of  
22 this Act, and apply to items and services furnished on or  
23 after such date.

1 **SEC. 7. CLARIFICATION ABOUT MINIMAL SELF-ADJUST-**  
2 **MENT FOR OFF-THE-SHELF ORTHOTICS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1847(a)(2)(C) of the So-  
4 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3(a)(2)(C)) is amend-  
5 ed—

6 (1) by inserting “furnished to a patient” after  
7 “section 1861(s)(9) of this title”;

8 (2) by inserting “by that patient (and not by  
9 any other person)” after “minimal self-adjustment”;  
10 and

11 (3) by striking “to fit to the individual” and in-  
12 serting “to fit to that patient”.

13 (b) INCLUSION IN MEDICAL AND OTHER HEALTH  
14 SERVICES.—Section 1861(s)(9) of the Social Security Act  
15 (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(9)) is amended—

16 (1) by striking “leg, arm” and inserting “(A)  
17 leg, arm”;

18 (2) in subparagraph (A), as added by para-  
19 graph (1), by striking the semicolon and inserting “;  
20 and”; and

21 (3) by adding the following new subparagraph:

22 “(B) off-the-shelf orthotics (as defined in sec-  
23 tion 1847(a)(2)(C)).”.

24 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
25 this section shall take effect on April 1, 2007, and apply  
26 to items and services furnished on or after such date.

1 **SEC. 8. REGULATIONS.**

2 Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment  
3 of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to  
4 implement—

5 (1) the provisions of, and amendments made  
6 by, this Act; and

7 (2) the provisions of, and amendments made  
8 by, section 427 of the Medicare, Medicaid, and  
9 SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protections Act  
10 of 2000, as enacted into law by section 1(a)(6) of  
11 Public Law 106–554.

○