

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2161

To require the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to collect and assess scientific evidence regarding prescription drugs frequently used by Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2003

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

A BILL

To require the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to collect and assess scientific evidence regarding prescription drugs frequently used by Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries, 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 “Prescription Value
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FREQUENTLY**
2 **USED BY MEDICARE OR MEDICAID BENE-**
3 **FICIARIES.**

4 (a) STUDY.—The Director of the Agency for
5 Healthcare Research and Quality (in this section referred
6 to as the “Director”) shall—

7 (1) identify prescription drugs that are fre-
8 quently used by Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries;

9 (2) collect available scientific evidence regarding
10 the relative clinical appropriateness and cost-effec-
11 tiveness of such prescription drugs;

12 (3) assess the validity and reliability of such
13 scientific evidence; and

14 (4) identify areas of additional research needed
15 to make an objective determination on the clinical
16 appropriateness and cost-effectiveness of such pre-
17 scription drugs.

18 (b) EVIDENCE.—In carrying out this section, the Di-
19 rector shall take into account—

20 (1) any relevant published scientific evidence;
21 and

22 (2) publicly available scientific studies and data
23 submitted by pharmaceutical companies, pharmacy
24 benefit managers, public and private payors, phar-
25 macies, managed care plans, and other interested
26 parties.

1 (c) DISSEMINATION.—The Director shall disseminate
2 the scientific evidence collected under this section to the
3 Congress, State Medicaid program directors, and the Cen-
4 ters for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

5 (d) COMMENCEMENT.—The Director shall commence
6 implementation of this section not later than 90 days after
7 the date of the enactment of this section.

8 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
9 commencement date described in subsection (d), the Di-
10 rector shall submit to the Congress a report that includes
11 the following:

12 (1) A description of the activities conducted
13 under this section.

14 (2) A recommendation for the modification or
15 expansion of such activities.

16 (3) A description of the applicability of such ac-
17 tivities on a large scale to Government programs, in-
18 cluding Medicare and Medicaid.

19 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 \$10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2004 through
22 2005.

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