

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3111

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental, vision, and hearing care under the Medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2017

Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PASCARELL, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois) 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 amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental, vision, and hearing care under the Medicare program.

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 “Medicare Dental, Vi-
5 sion, and Hearing Benefit Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. DENTAL AND ORAL HEALTH CARE.**

2 (a) COVERAGE.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social Se-
3 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)) is amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (FF), by striking “and”
5 after the semicolon at the end;

6 (2) in subparagraph (GG), by adding “and”
7 after the semicolon at the end; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 paragraph:

10 “(HH) dental and oral health services (as de-
11 fined in subsection (jjj));”.

12 (b) DENTAL AND ORAL HEALTH SERVICES DE-
13 FINED.—Section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42
14 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing new subsection:

16 “Dental and Oral Health Services

17 “(jjj) The term ‘dental and oral health services’
18 means—

19 “(1) routine dental cleanings and exams;

20 “(2) basic dental services, such as fillings and
21 crowns;

22 “(3) major dental services, such as root canals,
23 and extractions;

24 “(4) emergency dental care; and

25 “(5) other necessary services related to dental
26 or oral health (as defined by the Secretary).”.

1 (c) PAYMENT; COINSURANCE; AND LIMITATIONS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(a)(1) of the
3 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)) is
4 amended—

5 (A) by striking “and” before “(BB)”; and

6 (B) by inserting before the semicolon at
7 the end the following: “, and (CC) with respect
8 to dental and oral health services (as defined in
9 section 1861(jjj)), the amount paid shall be the
10 payment amount specified under section
11 1834(v)”.

12 (2) PAYMENT AND LIMITS SPECIFIED.—Section
13 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m)
14 is amended by adding at the end the following new
15 subsection:

16 “(v) PAYMENT AND LIMITS FOR DENTAL AND ORAL
17 HEALTH SERVICES.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The payment amount
19 under this part for dental and oral health services
20 (as defined in section 1861(jjj)) shall be, subject to
21 paragraph (3), the applicable percent (specified in
22 paragraph (2)) of the lesser of the actual charge for
23 the services or the amount determined under the
24 payment basis determined under section 1848.

1 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENT.—For purposes of
2 paragraph (1), the applicable percent specified in
3 this paragraph is—

4 “(A) for the first year beginning at least 6
5 months after the date of the enactment of this
6 subsection, 0 percent;

7 “(B) for the year following the year speci-
8 fied in subparagraph (A) and each subsequent
9 year through the seventh year following the
10 year specified in subparagraph (A), the applica-
11 ble percent specified in this paragraph for the
12 previous year increased by 10 percentage
13 points; and

14 “(C) for the eighth year following the year
15 specified in subparagraph (A) and each subse-
16 quent year, 80 percent.

17 “(3) LIMITATIONS AND SECRETARIAL AUTHOR-
18 ITY.—

19 “(A) FREQUENCY.—With respect to dental
20 and oral health services that are—

21 “(i) routine dental cleanings, payment
22 may be made under this part for only two
23 such cleanings during a 12-month period;
24 and

1 “(ii) routine exams, payment may be
2 made under this part for only two such
3 exams during a 12-month period.

4 “(B) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—

5 “(i) AUTHORITY TO APPLY ADDI-
6 TIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may
7 apply such other reasonable limitations on
8 the extent to which dental and oral services
9 are covered under this part, including
10 through application of a prior authoriza-
11 tion requirement.

12 “(ii) AUTHORITY TO MODIFY COV-
13 ERAGE.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
14 sion of this title, if the Secretary deter-
15 mines appropriate, the Secretary may mod-
16 ify the coverage under this part of dental
17 and oral health services to the extent that
18 such modification is consistent with the
19 recommendations of the United States Pre-
20 ventive Services Task Force.”.

21 (d) PAYMENT UNDER PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE.—
22 Section 1848(j)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
23 1395w-4(j)(3)) is amended by inserting “(2)(HH),” be-
24 fore “(3)”.

25 (e) DENTURES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(8) of the
2 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(8)) is
3 amended—

4 (A) by striking “(other than dental)” and
5 inserting “(including dentures)”; and

6 (B) by striking “internal body”.

7 (2) SPECIAL PAYMENT RULES.—Section
8 1834(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 1395m(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing new paragraph:

11 “(23) PAYMENT AND LIMITS FOR DENTURES.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The payment amount
13 under this part for dentures shall be, subject to
14 subparagraph (C), the applicable percent (speci-
15 fied in subparagraph (B)) of the amount other-
16 wise payable for such dentures under this sec-
17 tion.

18 “(B) APPLICABLE PERCENT.—For pur-
19 poses of subparagraph (A), the applicable per-
20 cent specified in this subparagraph is—

21 “(i) for the first year beginning at
22 least 6 months after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this paragraph, 0 percent;

24 “(ii) for the year following the year
25 specified in clause (i) and each subsequent

1 year through the seventh year following the
2 year specified in clause (i), the applicable
3 percent specified in this subparagraph for
4 the previous year increased by 10 percent-
5 age points; and

6 “(iii) for the eighth year following the
7 year specified in clause (i) and each subse-
8 quent year, 80 percent.

9 “(C) LIMITATIONS AND SECRETARIAL AU-
10 THORITY.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Payment may be
12 made under this part for an individual
13 for—

14 “(I) not more than one full upper
15 and one full lower denture once every
16 five years; and

17 “(II) not more than one partial
18 upper denture and one partial lower
19 denture once every five years.

20 “(ii) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—

21 “(I) AUTHORITY TO APPLY ADDI-
22 TIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary
23 may apply such other reasonable limi-
24 tations on the extent to which den-
25 tures are covered under this part, in-

1 cluding through application of a prior
2 authorization requirement.

3 “(II) AUTHORITY TO MODIFY
4 COVERAGE.—Notwithstanding any
5 other provision of this title, if the Sec-
6 retary determines appropriate, the
7 Secretary may modify the coverage
8 under this part of dentures to the ex-
9 tent that such modification is con-
10 sistent with the recommendations of
11 the United States Preventive Services
12 Task Force.”.

13 (f) REPEAL OF GROUND FOR EXCLUSION.—Section
14 1862(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y) is
15 amended by striking paragraph (12).

16 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
17 this section shall apply to services furnished on or after
18 January 1 of the first year beginning at least six months
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

20 **SEC. 3. VISION CARE.**

21 (a) COVERAGE.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social Se-
22 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)), as amended by section
23 2, is further amended—

24 (1) in subparagraph (GG), by striking “and”
25 after the semicolon at the end;

1 (2) in subparagraph (HH), by adding “and”
2 after the semicolon at the end; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
4 paragraph:

5 “(II) vision services (as defined in subsection
6 (III));”.

7 (b) VISION SERVICES DEFINED.—Section 1861 of
8 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x), as amended
9 by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the
10 following new subsection:

11 “Vision Services

12 “(III) The term ‘vision services’ means—

13 “(1) routine eye examinations and procedures
14 performed (during the course of any eye examina-
15 tion) to determine the refractive state of the eyes;
16 and

17 “(2) other necessary services related to eye and
18 vision health (as defined by the Secretary).”.

19 (c) PAYMENT; COINSURANCE; AND LIMITATIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(a)(1) of the
21 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)), as
22 amended by section 2, is further amended—

23 (A) by striking “and” before “(CC)”; and

24 (B) by inserting before the semicolon at
25 the end the following: “, and (DD) with respect

1 to vision services (as defined in section
2 1861(III)), the amount paid shall be the pay-
3 ment amount specified under section 1834(w)”.

4 (2) PAYMENT AND LIMITS SPECIFIED.—Section
5 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m),
6 as amended by section 2, is further amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following new subsection:

8 “(w) PAYMENT AND LIMITS FOR VISION SERV-
9 ICES.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The payment amount
11 under this part for vision services (as defined in sec-
12 tion 1861(III)) shall be, subject to paragraph (3), the
13 applicable percent (specified in paragraph (2)) of the
14 lesser of the actual charge for the services or the
15 amount determined under the payment basis deter-
16 mined under section 1848.

17 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENT.—For purposes of
18 paragraph (1), the applicable percent specified in
19 this paragraph is—

20 “(A) for the first year beginning at least 6
21 months after the date of the enactment of this
22 subsection, 0 percent;

23 “(B) for the year following the year speci-
24 fied in subparagraph (A) and each subsequent
25 year through the seventh year following the

1 year specified in subparagraph (A), the applica-
2 ble percent specified in this paragraph for the
3 previous year increased by 10 percentage
4 points; and

5 “(C) for the eighth year following the year
6 specified in subparagraph (A) and each subse-
7 quent year, 80 percent.

8 “(3) LIMITATIONS AND SECRETARIAL AUTHOR-
9 ITY.—

10 “(A) FREQUENCY.—With respect to rou-
11 tine eye exams, payment may be made under
12 this part for only one such exam during a 12-
13 month period.

14 “(B) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—

15 “(i) AUTHORITY TO APPLY ADDI-
16 TIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may
17 apply other reasonable limitations on the
18 extent to which vision services are covered
19 under this part, including through applica-
20 tion of a prior authorization requirement.

21 “(ii) AUTHORITY TO MODIFY COV-
22 ERAGE.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
23 sion of this title, if the Secretary deter-
24 mines appropriate, the Secretary may mod-
25 ify the coverage under this part of vision

1 services to the extent that such modifica-
2 tion is consistent with the recommenda-
3 tions of the United States Preventive Serv-
4 ices Task Force.”.

5 (d) PAYMENT UNDER PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE.—
6 Section 1848(j)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 1395w-4(j)(3)) is amended by inserting “(2)(II),” after
8 “(2)(HH),” (as added by section 2).

9 (e) SPECIAL PAYMENT RULES FOR EYEGLASSES,
10 CONTACT LENSES, AND LOW VISION DEVICES.—Section
11 1834(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)),
12 as amended by section 2, is further amended by adding
13 at the end the following:

14 “(24) PAYMENT AND LIMITS FOR EYEGLASSES
15 AND CONTACT LENSES.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The payment amount
17 under this part for eyeglass lenses, eyeglass
18 frames, and contact lenses shall be, subject to
19 subparagraph (C), the applicable percent (speci-
20 fied in subparagraph (B)) of the amount other-
21 wise payable for such eyeglass lenses, eyeglass
22 frames, and contact lenses, respectively, under
23 this section.

1 “(B) APPLICABLE PERCENT.—For pur-
2 poses of subparagraph (A), the applicable per-
3 cent specified in this subparagraph is—

4 “(i) for the first year beginning at
5 least 6 months after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this paragraph, 0 percent;

7 “(ii) for the year following the year
8 specified in clause (i) and each subsequent
9 year through the seventh year following the
10 year specified in clause (i), the applicable
11 percent specified in this subparagraph for
12 the previous year increased by 10 percent-
13 age points; and

14 “(iii) for the eighth year following the
15 year specified in clause (i) and each subse-
16 quent year, 80 percent.

17 “(C) LIMITATIONS AND SECRETARIAL AU-
18 THORITY.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Payment may be
20 made under this part (other than for
21 eyewear described in section 1861(s)(8))
22 for an individual for—

23 “(I) not more than one pair of
24 eyeglass lenses during any 12-month
25 period;

1 “(II) not more than one set of
2 eyeglass frames during any 24-month
3 period; and

4 “(III) contact lenses, only to the
5 extent that the sum of such payments
6 for contact lenses does not exceed a
7 limitation of \$200 during any 24-
8 month period beginning during the
9 first year beginning at least six
10 months after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this paragraph (or, beginning
12 during a subsequent year, such limita-
13 tion for a 24-month period beginning
14 in the previous year increase by an
15 appropriate inflation adjustment spec-
16 ified by the Secretary).

17 “(ii) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—

18 “(I) AUTHORITY TO APPLY ADDI-
19 TIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary
20 may apply such other reasonable limi-
21 tations on the extent to which eye-
22 glass lenses, eyeglass frames, and con-
23 tact lenses are covered under this
24 part, including through application of
25 a prior authorization requirement.

1 “(II) AUTHORITY TO MODIFY
2 COVERAGE.—Notwithstanding any
3 other provision of this title, if the Sec-
4 retary determines appropriate, the
5 Secretary may modify the coverage
6 under this part of eyeglass lenses, eye-
7 glass frames, and contact lenses to
8 the extent that such modification is
9 consistent with the recommendations
10 of the United States Preventive Serv-
11 ices Task Force.

12 “(25) PAYMENT AND LIMITS FOR LOW VISION
13 DEVICES.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The payment amount
15 under this part for low vision devices shall be,
16 subject to subparagraph (C), the applicable per-
17 cent (specified in subparagraph (B)) of the
18 amount otherwise payable for low vision devices
19 under this section.

20 “(B) APPLICABLE PERCENT.—For pur-
21 poses of subparagraph (A), the applicable per-
22 cent specified in this subparagraph is—

23 “(i) for the first year beginning at
24 least 6 months after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this paragraph, 0 percent;

1 “(ii) for the year following the year
2 specified in clause (i) and each subsequent
3 year through the seventh year following the
4 year specified in clause (i), the applicable
5 percent specified in this subparagraph for
6 the previous year increased by 10 percent-
7 age points; and

8 “(iii) for the eighth year following the
9 year specified in clause (i) and each subse-
10 quent year, 80 percent.

11 “(C) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—

12 “(i) AUTHORITY TO APPLY LIMITA-
13 TIONS.—The Secretary may apply reason-
14 able limitations on the extent to which low
15 vision devices are covered under this part,
16 including through application of a prior
17 authorization requirement.

18 “(ii) AUTHORITY TO MODIFY COV-
19 ERAGE.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
20 sion of this title, if the Secretary deter-
21 mines appropriate, the Secretary may mod-
22 ify the coverage under this part of low vi-
23 sion devices to the extent that such modi-
24 fication is consistent with the recommenda-

1 tions of the United States Preventive Serv-
2 ices Task Force.

3 “(D) LOW VISION DEVICE DEFINED.—In
4 this paragraph, the term ‘low vision device’
5 means a device, prescribed by a physician, that
6 magnifies, enhances, or otherwise augments or
7 interprets visual images irrespective of the size,
8 form, or technological features of such device
9 and does not include ordinary eyeglasses or con-
10 tact lenses. In the previous sentence, the term
11 ‘ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses’ means
12 lenses that are intended to fully correct visual
13 acuity or fully eliminate refractive error.”.

14 (f) DEFINITION OF DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
15 TO INCLUDE EYEGLASSES, CONTACT LENSES, AND LOW
16 VISION DEVICES.—Section 1861(n) of the Social Security
17 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(n)) is amended—

18 (1) by striking “and” before “eye tracking” and
19 inserting a comma; and

20 (2) by inserting “, and eyeglass lenses, low vi-
21 sion devices (as defined in section 1834(a)(25)), eye-
22 glass frames, and contact lenses” before “; except”.

23 (g) REPEAL OF GROUND FOR EXCLUSION.—Section
24 1862(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
25 1395y(a)(7)) is amended by striking “, eyeglasses (other

1 than eyewear described in section 1861(s)(8)) or eye ex-
2 aminations for the purpose of prescribing, fitting, or
3 changing eyeglasses, procedures performed (during the
4 course of any eye examination) to determine the refractive
5 state of the eyes”.

6 (h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 this section shall apply to services furnished on or after
8 January 1 of the first year beginning at least six months
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 4. HEARING CARE.**

11 (a) COVERAGE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the
13 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)), as
14 amended by sections 2 and 3, is further amended—

15 (A) in subparagraph (HH), by striking
16 “and” at the end;

17 (B) in subparagraph (II), by inserting
18 “and” at the end; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following new
20 subparagraph:

21 “(JJ) audiology services (as defined in sub-
22 section (ll)(3)) and hearing services (as defined in
23 subsection (ll)(5));”.

1 (2) HEARING SERVICES DEFINED.—Section
2 1861(ll) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
3 1395x(ll)) is amended—

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
5 “; HEARING SERVICES” after “AUDIOLOGY
6 SERVICES”; and

7 (B) by adding at the end the following new
8 paragraph:

9 “(5) The term ‘hearing services’ means—

10 “(A) routine hearing exams and exams for
11 hearing aids; and

12 “(B) other necessary services related to hearing
13 health (as defined by the Secretary).”.

14 (b) PAYMENT; COINSURANCE; AND LIMITATIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(a)(1) of the
16 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)), as
17 amended by sections 2 and 3, is further amended—

18 (A) by striking “and” before “(DD)”; and

19 (B) by inserting before the semicolon at
20 the end the following: “, and (EE) with respect
21 to audiology services (as defined in section
22 1861(ll)(3)) and hearing services (as defined in
23 section 1861(ll)(5)), the amount paid shall be
24 the payment amount specified under section
25 1834(x)”.

1 (2) PAYMENT AND LIMITS SPECIFIED.—Section
2 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m),
3 as amended by sections 2 and 3, is further amended
4 by adding at the end the following new subsection:
5 “(x) PAYMENT AND LIMITS FOR HEARING SERV-
6 ICES.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The payment amount
8 under this part for audiology services (as defined in
9 section 1861(ll)(3)) and hearing services (as defined
10 in section 1861(ll)(5)), shall be, subject to para-
11 graph (3), the applicable percent (specified in para-
12 graph (2)) of the lesser of the actual charge for the
13 services or the amount determined under the pay-
14 ment basis determined under section 1848.

15 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENT.—For purposes of
16 paragraph (1), the applicable percent specified in
17 this paragraph is—

18 “(A) for the first year beginning at least 6
19 months after the date of the enactment of this
20 subsection, 0 percent;

21 “(B) for the year following the year speci-
22 fied in subparagraph (A) and each subsequent
23 year through the seventh year following the
24 year specified in subparagraph (A), the applica-
25 ble percent specified in this paragraph for the

1 previous year increased by 10 percentage
2 points; and

3 “(C) for the eighth year following the year
4 specified in subparagraph (A) and each subse-
5 quent year, 80 percent.

6 “(3) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—

7 “(A) AUTHORITY TO APPLY LIMITA-
8 TIONS.—The Secretary may apply reasonable
9 limitations on the extent to which audiology
10 services and hearing services are covered under
11 this part, including through application of a
12 prior authorization requirement.

13 “(B) AUTHORITY TO MODIFY COVERAGE.—
14 Notwithstanding any other provision of this
15 title, if the Secretary determines appropriate,
16 the Secretary may modify the coverage under
17 this part of audiology services and hearing serv-
18 ices to the extent that such modification is con-
19 sistent with the recommendations of the United
20 States Preventive Services Task Force.”.

21 (c) PAYMENT UNDER THE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHED-
22 ULE.—Section 1848(j)(3) of the Social Security Act (42
23 U.S.C. 1395w-4(j)(3)), as amended by section 2(d), is
24 further amended by inserting “(2)(JJ),” before “(3)”.

25 (d) HEARING AIDS.—

1 (1) REPEAL OF GROUND FOR EXCLUSION.—
2 Section 1862(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42
3 U.S.C. 1395y(a)(7)), as amended by section 3(g), is
4 further amended by striking “, hearing aids or ex-
5 aminations therefor,”.

6 (2) DEFINITION OF DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIP-
7 MENT TO INCLUDE HEARING AIDS.—Section 1861(n)
8 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(n)), as
9 amended by section 3, is further amended by insert-
10 ing “hearing aids,” before “and eyeglass lenses”.

11 (3) SPECIAL PAYMENT RULES FOR HEARING
12 AIDS.—Section 1834(a) of the Social Security Act
13 (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)), as amended by sections 2
14 and 3, is further amended by adding at the end the
15 following new paragraph:

16 “(26) PAYMENT AND LIMITS FOR HEARING
17 AIDS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The payment amount
19 under this part for hearing aids shall be, sub-
20 ject to subparagraph (C), the applicable percent
21 (specified in subparagraph (B)) of the amount
22 otherwise payable for hearing aids under this
23 section.

1 “(B) APPLICABLE PERCENT.—For pur-
2 poses of subparagraph (A), the applicable per-
3 cent specified in this subparagraph is—

4 “(i) for the first year beginning at
5 least 6 months after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this paragraph, 0 percent;

7 “(ii) for the year following the year
8 specified in clause (i) and each subsequent
9 year through the seventh year following the
10 year specified in clause (i), the applicable
11 percent specified in this subparagraph for
12 the previous year increased by 10 percent-
13 age points; and

14 “(iii) for the eighth year following the
15 year specified in clause (i) and each subse-
16 quent year, 80 percent.

17 “(C) LIMITATIONS AND SECRETARIAL AU-
18 THORITY.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Payment may be
20 made under this part for an individual for
21 not more than one hearing aid per ear dur-
22 ing a 48-month period.

23 “(ii) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—

24 “(I) AUTHORITY TO APPLY ADDI-
25 TIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary

1 may apply additional limitations on
2 the extent to which hearing aids are
3 covered under this part, including
4 through application of a prior author-
5 ization requirement and through ap-
6 plication of criteria for a minimum
7 level of hearing loss for coverage of an
8 initial or replacement hearing aid.

9 “(II) AUTHORITY TO MODIFY
10 COVERAGE.—Notwithstanding any
11 other provision of this title, if the Sec-
12 retary determines appropriate, the
13 Secretary may modify the coverage
14 under this part of hearing aids to the
15 extent that such modification is con-
16 sistent with the recommendations of
17 the United States Preventive Services
18 Task Force.”.

19 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
20 this section shall apply to services furnished on or after
21 January 1 of the first year beginning at least six months
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

○