

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6639

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of digital retinal imaging with remote interpretation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2018

Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama) 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 under the Medicare program of digital retinal imaging with remote interpretation.

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 “Diabetic Vision Loss
5 and Blindness Prevention Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF DIGITAL RETINAL IMAG-**
2 **ING WITH REMOTE INTERPRETATION.**

3 (a) **COVERAGE.**—Section 1861 of the Social Security
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (s)(2)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (FF), by striking
7 “and” at the end;

8 (B) in subparagraph (GG), by adding
9 “and” at the end; and

10 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (GG)
11 the following new subparagraph:

12 “(HH) digital retinal imaging with remote
13 interpretation (as defined in subsection (jjj));”;
14 and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
16 section:

17 “(jjj) **DIGITAL RETINAL IMAGING WITH REMOTE IN-**
18 **TERPRETATION.**—The term ‘digital retinal imaging with
19 remote interpretation’ means an exam for the purpose of
20 early detection or assessment of diabetic retinopathy
21 that—

22 “(1) is provided not more frequently than on an
23 annual basis to an individual who has been diag-
24 nosed with diabetes and who—

25 “(A) does not have prior known diabetic
26 retinopathy; or

1 “(B) is not known to have worse than mild
2 non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy (ETDRS
3 level 35);

4 “(2) is provided by or under the supervision of
5 a primary care practitioner (as defined in section
6 1833(x)) or board-certified endocrinologist;

7 “(3) utilizes a retinal camera with optical reso-
8 lution compliant with the International Organization
9 for Standardization ISO 10940 to take digital im-
10 ages of structures behind the lens of the eye, such
11 as the retina, choroid and optic nerve; and

12 “(4) involves the electronic transmission of such
13 images for evaluation for diabetic retinopathy and
14 other diseases of the eye by a board-certified, State-
15 licensed ophthalmologist.”.

16 (b) PAYMENT.—Notwithstanding section 1834(m) of
17 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m))—

18 (1) payment shall be made pursuant to the
19 amendments made by subsection (a) for digital ret-
20 inal imaging with remote interpretation under CPT
21 code 92250; and

22 (2) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
23 ices shall establish a national minimum payment
24 amount for CPT code 92250 and any successor to
25 such codes that is not less than the reimbursement

- 1 rate in effect for such code (or predecessor code) on
- 2 December 31, 2017.

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