

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 977

To permit occupational therapists to conduct the initial assessment visit and complete the comprehensive assessment under a Medicare home health plan of care for certain rehabilitation cases.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2017

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

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## A BILL

To permit occupational therapists to conduct the initial assessment visit and complete the comprehensive assessment under a Medicare home health plan of care for certain rehabilitation cases.

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 Home Health  
5 Flexibility Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERMITTING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS TO CON-**  
2 **DUCT THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT VISIT AND**  
3 **COMPLETE THE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESS-**  
4 **MENT UNDER A MEDICARE HOME HEALTH**  
5 **PLAN OF CARE FOR CERTAIN REHABILITA-**  
6 **TION CASES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section  
8 484.55(a)(2) or 484.55(b)(3) of title 42, Code of Federal  
9 Regulations, or any other provision of law, an occupational  
10 therapist may be designated to conduct the initial assess-  
11 ment visit and to complete the comprehensive assessment  
12 for an individual who is eligible for home health services  
13 under title XVIII of the Social Security Act if the referral  
14 order by the physician—

- 15 (1) does not include skilled nursing care;  
16 (2) includes occupation therapy; and  
17 (3) includes physical therapy or speech lan-  
18 guage pathology.

19 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-  
20 section (a) shall be construed to provide for initial eligi-  
21 bility for coverage of home health services under title  
22 XVIII of the Social Security Act solely on the basis of  
23 a need for occupational therapy.

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