118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S.

To expand psychological mental and behavioral health services to Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries by permitting reimbursement of psychological services provided by certain supervised psychology trainees, and facilitating the reimbursement of those services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To expand psychological mental and behavioral health services to Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries by permitting reimbursement of psychological services provided by certain supervised psychology trainees, and facilitating the reimbursement of those services.

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 “Accelerating the Develop-
5   opment of Advanced Psychology Trainees Act” or the
6   “ADAPT Act”.
SEC. 2. COVERAGE AND CODING FOR QUALIFIED PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES FURNISHED BY ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY TRAINEES UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

(a) COVERAGE.—

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

(A) by inserting "(1)" after "(ii)";

(B) in paragraph (1), as added by paragraph (1) of this section, by inserting "(or furnished by an advanced psychology trainee under the general supervision of a clinical psychologist (as so defined) and billed by the supervising psychologist)" after "(as defined by the Secretary)"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) In this subsection:

"(A) The term ‘advanced psychology trainee’ means—

"(i) a doctoral intern who is completing a required period of supervised experiential training through a program accredited by the American Psychological Association, not less than
one year in duration, before being awarded a
doctoral degree; or
"(ii) a postdoctoral resident who has ob-
tained a doctoral degree in psychology, is seek-
ing a license to practice psychology, and is en-
gaged in a 1- or 2- year period of additional su-
pervised experiential training to acquire the
skills or hours required for licensure through a
program accredited by the American Psycho-
logical Association or a member of the Associa-
tion of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship
Centers.
"(B) The term 'general supervision' means,
with respect to a service, that the service is fur-
nished under the overall direction and control of a
clinical psychologist (as defined for purposes of
paragraph (1)), but the supervising psychologist’s
presence is not required during the furnishing of the
service.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
by this subsection shall apply to services furnished
on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of
the enactment of this Act.
(b) DEVELOPMENT OF GC MODIFIER CODE.—Not
later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
1 Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
develop a "GC" modifier code to identify and accurately
bill for services furnished by an advanced psychology
trainee pursuant to the amendments made by subsection
(a).

SEC. 3. GUIDANCE TO STATES ON COVERAGE OF SERVICES

PROVIDED BY ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY

TRAINEES UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services
shall issue and disseminate guidance to States on strate-
gies to overcome existing barriers to coverage of services
furnished by advanced psychology trainees (as defined
under section 1861(ii)(2) of the Social Security Act, as
added by section 2(a), through the Medicaid program
under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
1396 et seq.) and the Children's Health Insurance Pro-
gram under title XXI of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et
seq.). Such guidance shall include technical assistance and
best practices regarding each of the following:

(1) Recommended legal mechanisms for acti-
vating coverage of services furnished by advanced
psychology trainees under such programs.
(2) Recommended billing codes and code modifiers for services furnished by advanced psychology trainees.

(3) Examples of States that have used waivers under the Medicaid program or Children's Health Insurance Program to enable coverage of services furnished by advanced psychology trainees under such programs.