

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to implement Medicare payment policies designed to improve management of chronic disease, streamline care coordination, and improve quality outcomes without adding to the deficit.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to implement Medicare payment policies designed to improve management of chronic disease, streamline care coordination, and improve quality outcomes without adding to the deficit.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary
6 to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act of 2016”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—RECEIVING HIGH QUALITY CARE IN THE HOME

Sec. 101. Extending the Independence at Home Demonstration Program.

Sec. 102. Expanding access to home dialysis therapy.

TITLE II—ADVANCING TEAM-BASED CARE

Sec. 201. Providing continued access to Medicare Advantage special needs plans for vulnerable populations.

TITLE III—EXPANDING INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Sec. 301. Adapting benefits to meet the needs of chronically ill Medicare Advantage enrollees.

Sec. 302. Expanding supplemental benefits to meet the needs of chronically ill Medicare Advantage enrollees.

Sec. 303. Increasing convenience for Medicare Advantage enrollees through telehealth.

Sec. 304. Providing accountable care organizations the ability to expand the use of telehealth.

Sec. 305. Expanding the use of telehealth for individuals with stroke.

TITLE IV—IDENTIFYING THE CHRONICALLY ILL POPULATION

Sec. 401. Providing flexibility for beneficiaries to be part of an accountable care organization.

TITLE V—EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS AND CAREGIVERS IN CARE DELIVERY

Sec. 501. Eliminating barriers to care coordination under accountable care organizations.

Sec. 502. GAO study and report on longitudinal comprehensive care planning services under Medicare part B.

TITLE VI—OTHER POLICIES TO IMPROVE CARE FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL

Sec. 601. GAO study and report on improving medication synchronization.

Sec. 602. GAO study and report on impact of obesity drugs on patient health and spending.

1 **TITLE I—RECEIVING HIGH**
2 **QUALITY CARE IN THE HOME**

3 **SEC. 101. EXTENDING THE INDEPENDENCE AT HOME DEM-**
4 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

5 Section 1866E of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
6 1395cc-5) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (e)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5-year
9 period” and inserting “7-year period”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “10,000”
11 and inserting “15,000”; and

12 (2) in subsection (i), by striking “second of 2”
13 and inserting “third of 3”.

14 **SEC. 102. EXPANDING ACCESS TO HOME DIALYSIS THER-**
15 **APY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1881(b)(3) of the Social
17 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)(3)) is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and
19 (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

20 (2) in clause (ii), as redesignated by subpara-
21 graph (A), strike “on a comprehensive” and insert
22 “subject to subparagraph (B), on a comprehensive”;

23 (3) by striking “With respect to” and inserting
24 “(A) With respect to”; and

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

3 “(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), an indi-
4 vidual determined to have end stage renal disease receiv-
5 ing home dialysis may choose to receive the monthly end
6 stage renal disease-related visits furnished on or after
7 January 1, 2018, via telehealth if the individual receives
8 a face-to-face visit, without the use of telehealth, at least
9 once every three consecutive months.”.

10 (b) ORIGINATING SITE REQUIREMENTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834(m) of the So-
12 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)) is amend-
13 ed—

14 (A) in paragraph (4)(C)(ii), by adding at
15 the end the following new subclauses:

16 “(IX) A renal dialysis facility,
17 but only for purposes of section
18 1881(b)(3)(B).

19 “(X) The home of an individual,
20 but only for purposes of section
21 1881(b)(3)(B).”; and

22 (B) by adding at the end the following new
23 paragraph:

24 “(5) TREATMENT OF HOME DIALYSIS MONTHLY
25 ESRD-RELATED VISIT.—The geographic require-

1 ments described in paragraph (4)(C)(i) shall not
2 apply with respect to telehealth services furnished on
3 or after January 1, 2018, for purposes of section
4 1881(b)(3)(B), at an originating site described in
5 subclause (VI), (IX), or (X) of paragraph
6 (4)(C)(ii).”.

7 (2) NO FACILITY FEE IF ORIGINATING SITE
8 FOR HOME DIALYSIS THERAPY IS THE HOME.—Sec-
9 tion 1834(m)(2)(B) of the Social Security (42
10 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(2)(B)) is amended—

11 (A) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as
12 subclauses (I) and (II), and indenting appro-
13 priately;

14 (B) in subclause (II), as redesignated by
15 subparagraph (A), by striking “clause (i) or
16 this clause” and inserting “subclause (I) or this
17 subclause”;

18 (C) by striking “SITE.—With respect to”
19 and inserting “SITE.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
21 (ii), with respect to”; and

22 (D) by adding at the end the following new
23 clause:

24 “(ii) NO FACILITY FEE IF ORIGI-
25 NATING SITE FOR HOME DIALYSIS THER-

1 APY IS THE HOME.—No facility fee shall
2 be paid under this subparagraph to an
3 originating site described in paragraph
4 (4)(C)(ii)(X).”.

5 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1881(b)(1)
6 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)(1)) is
7 amended by striking “paragraph (3)(A)” and inserting
8 “paragraph (3)(A)(i)”.

9 **TITLE II—ADVANCING TEAM-**
10 **BASED CARE**

11 **SEC. 201. PROVIDING CONTINUED ACCESS TO MEDICARE**
12 **ADVANTAGE SPECIAL NEEDS PLANS FOR**
13 **VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.**

14 (a) EXTENSION.—Section 1859(f)(1) of the Social
15 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–28(f)(1)) is amended by
16 striking “and for periods before January 1, 2019”.

17 (b) INCREASED INTEGRATION OF DUAL SNPs.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1859(f) of the Social
19 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–28(f)) is amended—

20 (A) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end
21 the following new subparagraph:

22 “(F) The plan meets the requirements ap-
23 plicable under paragraph (8).”; and

24 (B) by adding at the end the following new
25 paragraph:

1 “(8) INCREASED INTEGRATION OF DUAL
2 SNPS.—

3 “(A) DESIGNATED CONTACT.—The Sec-
4 retary, acting through the Federal Coordinated
5 Health Care Office established under section
6 2602 of the Patient Protection and Affordable
7 Care Act, shall serve as a dedicated point of
8 contact for States to address misalignments
9 that arise with the integration of specialized
10 MA plans for special needs individuals de-
11 scribed in subsection (b)(6)(B)(ii) under this
12 paragraph and, consistent with such role,
13 shall—

14 “(i) establish a uniform process for
15 disseminating to State Medicaid agencies
16 information under this title impacting con-
17 tracts between such agencies and such
18 plans under this subsection; and

19 “(ii) establish basic resources for
20 States interested in exploring such plans
21 as a platform for integration, such as a
22 model contract or other tools to achieve
23 those goals.

24 “(B) UNIFIED GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS
25 PROCESS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than
2 April 1, 2019, the Secretary shall establish
3 procedures, to the extent feasible, unifying
4 grievances and appeals procedures under
5 sections 1852(f), 1852(g), 1902(a)(3),
6 1902(a)(5), and 1932(b)(4) for items and
7 services provided by specialized MA plans
8 for special needs individuals described in
9 subsection (b)(6)(B)(ii) under this title
10 and title XIX. The Secretary shall solicit
11 comment in developing such procedures
12 from States, plans, beneficiaries and their
13 representatives, and other relevant stake-
14 holders.

15 “(ii) PROCEDURES.—The procedures
16 established under clause (i) shall be in-
17 cluded in the plan contract under para-
18 graph (3)(D) and shall—

19 “(I) adopt the provisions for the
20 enrollee that are most protective for
21 the enrollee and, to the extent feasible
22 as determined by the Secretary, are
23 compatible with unified timeframes
24 and consolidated access to external re-
25 view under an integrated process;

1 “(II) take into account dif-
2 ferences in State plans under title
3 XIX to the extent necessary;

4 “(III) be easily navigable by an
5 enrollee; and

6 “(IV) include the elements de-
7 scribed in clause (iii), as applicable.

8 “(iii) ELEMENTS DESCRIBED.—Both
9 unified appeals and unified grievance pro-
10 cedures shall include, as applicable, the fol-
11 lowing elements described in this clause:

12 “(I) Single written notification of
13 all applicable grievances and appeal
14 rights under this title and title XIX.
15 For purposes of this subparagraph,
16 the Secretary may waive the require-
17 ments under section 1852(g)(1)(B)
18 when the specialized MA plan covers
19 items or services under this part or
20 under title XIX.

21 “(II) Single pathways for resolu-
22 tion of any grievance or appeal related
23 to a particular item or service pro-
24 vided by specialized MA plans for spe-
25 cial needs individuals described in

1 subsection (b)(6)(B)(ii) under this
2 title and title XIX.

3 “(III) Notices written in plain
4 language and available in a language
5 and format that is accessible to the
6 enrollee, including in non-English lan-
7 guages that are prevalent in the serv-
8 ice area of the specialized MA plan.

9 “(IV) Unified timeframes for
10 grievances and appeals processes,
11 such as an individual’s filing of a
12 grievance or appeal, a plan’s acknowl-
13 edgment and resolution of a grievance
14 or appeal, and notification of decisions
15 with respect to a grievance or appeal.

16 “(V) Requirements for how the
17 plan must process, track, and resolve
18 grievances and appeals, to ensure
19 beneficiaries are notified on a timely
20 basis of decisions that are made
21 throughout the grievance or appeals
22 process and are able to easily deter-
23 mine the status of a grievance or ap-
24 peal.

1 “(iv) CONTINUATION OF BENEFITS
2 PENDING APPEAL.—The unified procedures
3 under clause (i) shall, with respect to all
4 benefits under parts A and B and title
5 XIX subject to appeal under such proce-
6 dures, incorporate provisions under current
7 law and implementing regulations that pro-
8 vide continuation of benefits pending ap-
9 peal under this title and title XIX.

10 “(C) REQUIREMENT FOR UNIFIED GRIEV-
11 ANCES AND APPEALS.—For 2020 and subse-
12 quent years, the contract of a specialized MA
13 plan for special needs individuals described in
14 subsection (b)(6)(B)(ii) with a State Medicaid
15 agency under paragraph (3)(D) shall require
16 the use of unified grievances and appeals proce-
17 dures as described in subparagraph (B).

18 “(D) REQUIREMENTS FOR INTEGRA-
19 TION.—For 2021 and subsequent years, a spe-
20 cialized MA plan for special needs individuals
21 described in subsection (b)(6)(B)(ii) shall meet
22 one or more of the following requirements, to
23 the extent permitted under State law, for inte-
24 gration of benefits under this title and title
25 XIX:

1 “(i) The specialized MA plan must
2 meet the requirements of contracting with
3 the State Medicaid agency described in
4 paragraph (3)(D) in addition to coordi-
5 nating long-term services and supports or
6 behavioral health services, or both, by
7 meeting an additional minimum set of re-
8 quirements determined by the Secretary
9 through the Federal Coordinated Health
10 Care Office established under section 2018
11 of the Patient Protection and Affordable
12 Care Act based on input from stake-
13 holders, such as notifying the State in a
14 timely manner of hospitalizations, emer-
15 gency room visits, and hospital or nursing
16 home discharges of enrollees, assigning one
17 primary care provider for each enrollee, or
18 sharing data that would benefit the coordi-
19 nation of items and services under this
20 title and the State plan under title XIX.
21 Such minimum set of requirements must
22 be included in the contract of the special-
23 ized MA plan with the State Medicaid
24 agency under such paragraph.

1 CARE OFFICE.—Section 2602(d) of the Patient Pro-
2 tection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
3 1315b(d)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing new paragraphs:

5 “(6) To act as a designated contact for States
6 under subsection (f)(8)(A) of section 1859 of the So-
7 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–28) with respect
8 to the integration of specialized MA plans for special
9 needs individuals described in subsection
10 (b)(6)(B)(ii) of such section.

11 “(7) To be responsible for developing regula-
12 tions and guidance related to the implementation of
13 a unified grievance and appeals process as described
14 in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 1859(f)(8)
15 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–
16 28(f)(8)).”.

17 (c) IMPROVEMENTS TO SEVERE OR DISABLING
18 CHRONIC CONDITION SNPs.—

19 (1) CARE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Sec-
20 tion 1859(f)(5) of the Social Security Act (42
21 U.S.C. 1395w–28(f)(5)) is amended—

22 (A) by striking “ALL SNPS.—The require-
23 ments” and inserting “ALL SNPS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
25 graph (B), the requirements”;

1 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
2 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and
3 indenting appropriately;

4 (C) in clause (ii), as redesignated by sub-
5 paragraph (B), by redesignating clauses (i)
6 through (iii) as subclauses (I) through (III), re-
7 spectively, and indenting appropriately; and

8 (D) by adding at the end the following new
9 subparagraph:

10 “(B) IMPROVEMENTS TO CARE MANAGE-
11 MENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SEVERE OR DIS-
12 ABLING CHRONIC CONDITION SNPS.—For 2020
13 and subsequent years, in the case of a special-
14 ized MA plan for special needs individuals de-
15 scribed in subsection (b)(6)(B)(iii), the require-
16 ments described in this paragraph include the
17 following:

18 “(i) The interdisciplinary team under
19 subparagraph (A)(ii)(III) includes a team
20 of providers with demonstrated expertise,
21 including training in an applicable spe-
22 cialty, in treating individuals similar to the
23 targeted population of the plan.

24 “(ii) Requirements developed by the
25 Secretary to provide face-to-face encoun-

1 ters with individuals enrolled in the plan
2 not less frequently than on an annual
3 basis.

4 “(iii) As part of the model of care
5 under clause (i) of subparagraph (A), the
6 results of the initial assessment and an-
7 nual reassessment under clause (ii)(I) of
8 such subparagraph of each individual en-
9 rolled in the plan are addressed in the indi-
10 vidual’s individualized care plan under
11 clause (ii)(II) of such subparagraph.

12 “(iv) As part of the annual evaluation
13 and approval of such model of care, the
14 Secretary shall take into account whether
15 the plan fulfilled the previous year’s goals
16 (as required under the model of care).

17 “(v) The Secretary shall establish a
18 minimum benchmark for each element of
19 the model of care of a plan. The Secretary
20 shall only approve a plan’s model of care
21 under this paragraph if each element of
22 the model of care meets the minimum
23 benchmark applicable under the preceding
24 sentence.”.

1 (B) PANEL OF CLINICAL ADVISORS.—Sec-
2 tion 1859(f) of the Social Security Act (42
3 U.S.C. 1395w–28(f)), as amended by subsection
4 (b), is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new paragraph:

6 “(9) LIST OF CONDITIONS FOR CLARIFICATION
7 OF THE DEFINITION OF A SEVERE OR DISABLING
8 CHRONIC CONDITIONS SPECIALIZED NEEDS INDI-
9 VIDUAL.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than De-
11 cember 31, 2020, and every 5 years thereafter,
12 the Secretary shall convene a panel of clinical
13 advisors to establish and update a list of condi-
14 tions that meet each of the following criteria:

15 “(i) Conditions that meet the defini-
16 tion of a severe or disabling chronic condi-
17 tion under subsection (b)(6)(B)(iii) on or
18 after January 1, 2022.

19 “(ii) Conditions that—

20 “(I) require prescription drugs,
21 providers, and models of care that are
22 unique to the specific population of
23 enrollees in a specialized MA plan for
24 special needs individuals described in
25 such subsection on or after such date

1 and would not be needed by the gen-
2 eral population of beneficiaries under
3 this title; and

4 “(II) have a low prevalence in the
5 general population of beneficiaries
6 under this title or a disproportionately
7 high per-beneficiary cost under this
8 title.

9 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—In establishing and
10 updating the list under subparagraph (A), the
11 panel shall take into account the availability of
12 varied benefits, cost-sharing, and supplemental
13 benefits under the model described in para-
14 graph (2) of section 1859(h), including the ex-
15 pansion under paragraph (1) of such section.”.

16 (d) QUALITY MEASUREMENT AT THE PLAN LEVEL
17 FOR SNPs AND DETERMINATION OF FEASIBILITY OF
18 QUALITY MEASUREMENT AT THE PLAN LEVEL FOR ALL
19 MA PLANS.—Section 1853(o) of the Social Security Act
20 (42 U.S.C. 1395w-23(o)) is amended by adding at the end
21 the following new paragraphs:

22 “(6) QUALITY MEASUREMENT AT THE PLAN
23 LEVEL FOR SNPs.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
25 graph (B), the Secretary may require reporting

1 of data under section 1852(e) for, and apply
2 under this subsection, quality measures at the
3 plan level for specialized MA plans for special
4 needs individuals instead of at the contract
5 level.

6 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—Prior to applying
7 quality measurement at the plan level under
8 this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

9 “(i) take into consideration the min-
10 imum number of enrollees in a specialized
11 MA plan for special needs individuals in
12 order to determine if a statistically signifi-
13 cant or valid measurement of quality at
14 the plan level is possible under this para-
15 graph;

16 “(ii) if quality measures are reported
17 at the plan level, ensure that MA plans are
18 not required to provide duplicative infor-
19 mation; and

20 “(iii) ensure that such reporting does
21 not interfere with the collection of encoun-
22 ter data submitted by MA organizations or
23 the administration of any changes to the
24 program under this part as a result of the
25 collection of such data.

1 “(C) APPLICATION.—If the Secretary ap-
2 plies quality measurement at the plan level
3 under this paragraph, such quality measure-
4 ment may include Medicare Health Outcomes
5 Survey (HOS), Healthcare Effectiveness Data
6 and Information Set (HEDIS), Consumer As-
7 sessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems
8 (CAHPS) measures and quality measures under
9 part D.

10 “(7) DETERMINATION OF FEASIBILITY OF
11 QUALITY MEASUREMENT AT THE PLAN LEVEL FOR
12 ALL MA PLANS.—

13 “(A) DETERMINATION OF FEASIBILITY.—
14 The Secretary shall determine the feasibility of
15 requiring reporting of data under section
16 1852(e) for, and applying under this subsection,
17 quality measures at the plan level for all MA
18 plans under this part.

19 “(B) CONSIDERATION OF CHANGE.—After
20 making a determination under subparagraph
21 (A), the Secretary shall consider requiring such
22 reporting and applying such quality measures
23 at the plan level as described in such subpara-
24 graph.”.

1 (e) GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON STATE-LEVEL IN-
2 TEGRATION BETWEEN DUAL SNPs AND MEDICAID.—

3 (1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the
4 United States (in this paragraph referred to as the
5 “Comptroller General”) shall conduct a study on
6 State-level integration between specialized MA plans
7 for special needs individuals described in subsection
8 (b)(6)(B)(ii) of section 1859 of the Social Security
9 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–28) and the Medicaid pro-
10 gram under title XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396
11 et seq.). Such study shall include an analysis of the
12 following:

13 (A) The characteristics of States in which
14 the State agency responsible for administering
15 the State plan under such title XIX has a con-
16 tract with such a specialized MA plan and that
17 delivers long term services and supports under
18 the State plan under such title XIX through a
19 managed care program, including the require-
20 ments under such State plan with respect to
21 long term services and supports.

22 (B) The types of such specialized MA
23 plans, which may include the following:

1 (i) A plan described in section
2 1853(a)(1)(B)(iv)(II) of such Act (42
3 U.S.C. 1395w-23(a)(1)(B)(iv)(II)).

4 (ii) A plan that meets the require-
5 ments described in subsection (f)(3)(D) of
6 such section 1859.

7 (iii) A plan described in clause (ii)
8 that also meets additional requirements es-
9 tablished by the State.

10 (C) The characteristics of individuals en-
11 rolled in such specialized MA plans.

12 (D) As practicable, the following with re-
13 spect to State programs for the delivery of long
14 term services and supports under such title
15 XIX through a managed care program:

16 (i) Which populations of individuals
17 are eligible to receive such services and
18 supports.

19 (ii) Whether all such services and sup-
20 ports are provided on a capitated basis or
21 if any of such services and supports are
22 carved out and provided through fee-for-
23 service.

24 (E) How the availability and variation of
25 integration arrangements of such specialized

1 MA plans offered in States affects spending,
2 service delivery options, access to community-
3 based care, and utilization of care.

4 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
6 General shall submit to Congress a report containing
7 the results of the study conducted under paragraph
8 (1), together with recommendations for such legisla-
9 tion and administrative action as the Comptroller
10 General determines appropriate.

11 **TITLE III—EXPANDING**
12 **INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

13 **SEC. 301. ADAPTING BENEFITS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF**
14 **CHRONICALLY ILL MEDICARE ADVANTAGE**
15 **ENROLLEES.**

16 Section 1859 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
17 1395w–28) is amended by adding at the end the following
18 new subsection:

19 “(h) NATIONAL TESTING OF MODEL FOR MEDICARE
20 ADVANTAGE VALUE-BASED INSURANCE DESIGN.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In implementing the model
22 described in paragraph (2) proposed to be tested
23 under section 1115A(b), the Secretary shall revise
24 the testing of the model under such section to cover,
25 effective not later than January 1, 2019, all States.

1 “(2) MODEL DESCRIBED.—The model described
2 in this paragraph is the testing of a model of Medi-
3 care Advantage value-based insurance design that
4 would allow Medicare Advantage plans the option to
5 propose and design benefit structures that vary ben-
6 efits, cost-sharing, and supplemental benefits offered
7 to enrollees with specific chronic diseases proposed
8 to be carried out in Oregon, Arizona, Texas, Iowa,
9 Michigan, Indiana, Tennessee, Alabama, Pennsyl-
10 vania, and Massachusetts.

11 “(3) TERMINATION AND MODIFICATION PROVI-
12 SION NOT APPLICABLE UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2022.—
13 The provisions of section 1115A(b)(3)(B) shall apply
14 to the model described in paragraph (2), including
15 such model as expanded under paragraph (1), begin-
16 ning January 1, 2022, but shall not apply to such
17 model, as so expanded, prior to such date.

18 “(4) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall allocate
19 funds made available under section 1115A(f)(1) to
20 design, implement, and evaluate the model described
21 in paragraph (2), as expanded under paragraph
22 (1).”.

1 **SEC. 302. EXPANDING SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS TO MEET**
2 **THE NEEDS OF CHRONICALLY ILL MEDICARE**
3 **ADVANTAGE ENROLLEES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1852(a)(3) of the Social
5 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–22(a)(3)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Each”
7 and inserting “Subject to subparagraph (D), each”;
8 and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 paragraph:

11 “(D) EXPANDING SUPPLEMENTAL BENE-
12 FITS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHRONICALLY
13 ILL ENROLLEES.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For plan year
15 2019 and subsequent plan years, in addi-
16 tion to any supplemental health care bene-
17 fits otherwise provided under this para-
18 graph, an MA plan may provide supple-
19 mental benefits described in clause (ii) to
20 a chronically ill enrollee (as defined in
21 clause (iii)).

22 “(ii) SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS DE-
23 SCRIBED.—

24 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Supplemental
25 benefits described in this clause are
26 supplemental benefits that, with re-

1 spect to a chronically ill enrollee, have
2 a reasonable expectation of improving
3 or maintaining the health or overall
4 function of the chronically ill enrollee
5 and may not be limited to being pri-
6 marily health related benefits.

7 “(II) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE UNI-
8 FORMITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
9 retary may, only with respect to sup-
10 plemental benefits provided to a
11 chronically ill enrollee under this sub-
12 paragraph, waive the uniformity re-
13 quirement under subsection (d)(1)(A),
14 as determined appropriate by the Sec-
15 retary.

16 “(iii) CHRONICALLY ILL ENROLLEE
17 DEFINED.—In this subparagraph, the term
18 ‘chronically ill enrollee’ means an enrollee
19 in an MA plan that the Secretary deter-
20 mines—

21 “(I) has one or more comorbid
22 and medically complex chronic condi-
23 tions that is life threatening or signifi-
24 cantly limits the overall health or
25 function of the enrollee;

1 “(II) has a high risk of hos-
2 pitalization or other adverse health
3 outcomes; and

4 “(III) requires intensive care co-
5 ordination.”.

6 (b) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

7 (1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the
8 United States (in this subsection referred to as the
9 “Comptroller General”) shall conduct a study on
10 supplemental benefits provided to enrollees in Medi-
11 care Advantage plans under part C of title XVIII of
12 the Social Security Act. Such study shall include an
13 analysis of the following:

14 (A) The type of supplemental benefits pro-
15 vided to such enrollees, the total number of en-
16 rollees receiving each supplemental benefit, and
17 whether the supplemental benefit is covered by
18 the standard benchmark cost of the benefit or
19 with an additional premium.

20 (B) The frequency in which supplemental
21 benefits are utilized by such enrollees.

22 (C) The impact supplemental benefits have
23 on—

1 (i) indicators of the quality of care re-
2 ceived by such enrollees, including overall
3 health and function of the enrollees;

4 (ii) the utilization of items and serv-
5 ices for which benefits are available under
6 the original Medicare fee-for-service pro-
7 gram option under parts A and B of such
8 title XVIII by such enrollees; and

9 (iii) the amount of the bids submitted
10 by Medicare Advantage Organizations for
11 Medicare Advantage plans under such part
12 C.

13 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
15 General shall submit to Congress a report containing
16 the results of the study conducted under paragraph
17 (1), together with recommendations for such legisla-
18 tion and administrative action as the Comptroller
19 General determines appropriate.

20 **SEC. 303. INCREASING CONVENIENCE FOR MEDICARE AD-**
21 **VANTAGE ENROLLEES THROUGH TELE-**
22 **HEALTH.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1852 of the Social Secu-
24 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-22) is amended—

1 cations technology when a physician
2 (as defined in section 1861(r)) or
3 practitioner (described in section
4 1842(b)(18)(C)) providing the service
5 is not at the same location as the plan
6 enrollee.

7 “(ii) EXCLUSION OF CAPITAL AND IN-
8 FRASTRUCTURE COSTS AND INVEST-
9 MENTS.—The term ‘additional telehealth
10 benefits’ does not include capital and infra-
11 structure costs and investments relating to
12 such benefits.

13 “(B) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Not later than
14 November 30, 2017, the Secretary shall solicit
15 comments on what types of telehealth services
16 currently offered to enrollees under this part
17 through supplemental health care benefits
18 should be considered to meet the definition of
19 additional telehealth benefits under this para-
20 graph.

21 “(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL TELE-
22 HEALTH BENEFITS.—The Secretary shall specify re-
23 quirements for the provision or furnishing of addi-
24 tional telehealth benefits, including with respect to
25 the following:

1 “(A) Physician or practitioner licensure
2 and other requirements such as specific train-
3 ing.

4 “(B) Factors necessary to ensure the co-
5 ordination of such benefits with items and serv-
6 ices furnished in-person.

7 “(C) Such other areas as determined by
8 the Secretary.

9 “(4) ENROLLEE CHOICE.—If an MA plan pro-
10 vides a service as an additional telehealth benefit (as
11 defined in paragraph (2)), an individual enrollee
12 shall have discretion as to whether to receive such
13 service as an additional telehealth benefit.

14 “(5) CONSTRUCTION REGARDING NETWORK AC-
15 CESS ADEQUACY.—Provision of additional telehealth
16 benefits under this subsection shall not be construed
17 as making such benefits available and accessible for
18 purposes of compliance with subsection (d).

19 “(6) TREATMENT UNDER MA.—For purposes of
20 this subsection and section 1854, additional tele-
21 health benefits shall be treated as if they were bene-
22 fits under the original Medicare fee-for-service pro-
23 gram option.

24 “(7) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sub-
25 section shall be construed as affecting the require-

1 ment under subsection (a)(1) that MA plans provide
2 enrollees with items and services (other than hospice
3 care) for which benefits are available under parts A
4 and B, including benefits available under section
5 1834(m).”.

6 (b) CLARIFICATION REGARDING INCLUSION IN BID
7 AMOUNT.—Section 1854(a)(6)(A)(ii)(I) of the Social Se-
8 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-24(a)(6)(A)(ii)(I)) is
9 amended by inserting “, including, for plan year 2019 and
10 subsequent plan years, the provision of additional tele-
11 health benefits as described in section 1852(m)” before
12 the semicolon at the end.

13 **SEC. 304. PROVIDING ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZA-**
14 **TIONS THE ABILITY TO EXPAND THE USE OF**
15 **TELEHEALTH.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1899 of the Social Secu-
17 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395jjj) is amended by adding at the
18 end the following new subsection:

19 “(1) PROVIDING ACOs THE ABILITY TO EXPAND
20 THE USE OF TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of telehealth
22 services for which payment would otherwise be made
23 under this title furnished on or after January 1,
24 2019, for purposes of this subsection only, the fol-
25 lowing shall apply with respect to such services fur-

1 nished by a physician or practitioner participating in
2 an applicable ACO (as defined in paragraph (2)) to
3 a Medicare fee-for-service beneficiary assigned to the
4 applicable ACO:

5 “(A) INCLUSION OF HOME AS ORIGINATING
6 SITE.—Subject to paragraph (3), the home of a
7 beneficiary shall be treated as an originating
8 site described in section 1834(m)(4)(C)(ii).

9 “(B) NO APPLICATION OF GEOGRAPHIC
10 LIMITATION.—The geographic limitation under
11 section 1834(m)(4)(C)(i) shall not apply with
12 respect to an originating site described in sec-
13 tion 1834(m)(4)(C)(ii) (including the home of a
14 beneficiary under subparagraph (A)), subject to
15 State licensing requirements.

16 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

17 “(A) APPLICABLE ACO.—The term ‘appli-
18 cable ACO’ means an ACO participating in a
19 model tested or expanded under section 1115A
20 or under this section—

21 “(i) that operates under a two-sided
22 model—

23 “(I) described in section
24 425.600(a) of title 42, Code of Fed-
25 eral Regulations; or

1 “(II) tested or expanded under
2 section 1115A; and

3 “(ii) for which Medicare fee-for-serv-
4 ice beneficiaries are assigned to the ACO
5 using a prospective assignment method, as
6 determined appropriate by the Secretary.

7 “(B) HOME.—The term ‘home’ means,
8 with respect to a Medicare fee-for-service bene-
9 ficiary, the place of residence used as the home
10 of the beneficiary.

11 “(3) TELEHEALTH SERVICES RECEIVED IN THE
12 HOME.—In the case of telehealth services described
13 in paragraph (1) where the home of a Medicare fee-
14 for-service beneficiary is the originating site, the fol-
15 lowing shall apply:

16 “(A) NO FACILITY FEE.—There shall be
17 no facility fee paid to the originating site under
18 section 1834(m)(2)(B).

19 “(B) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SERVICES.—
20 No payment may be made for such services that
21 are inappropriate to furnish in the home setting
22 such as services that are typically furnished in
23 inpatient settings such as a hospital.”.

24 (b) STUDY AND REPORT.—

25 (1) STUDY.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
2 Health and Human Services (in this subsection
3 referred to as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a
4 study on the implementation of section 1899(l)
5 of the Social Security Act, as added by sub-
6 section (a). Such study shall include an analysis
7 of the utilization of, and expenditures for, tele-
8 health services under such section.

9 (B) COLLECTION OF DATA.—The Sec-
10 retary may collect such data as the Secretary
11 determines necessary to carry out the study
12 under this paragraph.

13 (2) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2025,
14 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report con-
15 taining the results of the study conducted under
16 paragraph (1), together with recommendations for
17 such legislation and administrative action as the
18 Secretary determines appropriate.

19 **SEC. 305. EXPANDING THE USE OF TELEHEALTH FOR INDI-**
20 **VIDUALS WITH STROKE.**

21 Section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42
22 U.S.C. 1395m(m)), as amended by section 102(b)(2), is
23 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
24 graph:

1 “(6) TREATMENT OF STROKE TELEHEALTH
2 SERVICES.—

3 “(A) NON-APPLICATION OF ORIGINATING
4 SITE REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements de-
5 scribed in paragraph (4)(C) shall not apply with
6 respect to telehealth services furnished on or
7 after January 1, 2018, for purposes of evalua-
8 tion of an acute stroke, as determined by the
9 Secretary.

10 “(B) NO ORIGINATING SITE FACILITY
11 FEE.—The Secretary shall not pay an origi-
12 nating site facility fee (as described in para-
13 graph (2)(B)) with respect to such telehealth
14 services.”.

15 **TITLE IV—IDENTIFYING THE**
16 **CHRONICALLY ILL POPULATION**

17 **SEC. 401. PROVIDING FLEXIBILITY FOR BENEFICIARIES TO**
18 **BE PART OF AN ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGA-**
19 **NIZATION.**

20 Section 1899(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
21 1395jjj(c)) is amended—

22 (1) by striking “ACOs.—The Secretary” and
23 inserting “ACOs.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
25 the Secretary”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(2) PROVIDING FLEXIBILITY.—

4 “(A) CHOICE OF PROSPECTIVE ASSIGN-
5 MENT.—For each agreement period (effective
6 for agreements entered into or renewed on or
7 after January 1, 2019), in the case where an
8 ACO established under the program is in a
9 Track that provides for the retrospective assign-
10 ment of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries to
11 the ACO, the Secretary shall permit the ACO
12 to choose to have Medicare fee-for-service bene-
13 ficiaries assigned prospectively, rather than ret-
14 rospectively, to the ACO for an agreement pe-
15 riod.

16 “(B) ASSIGNMENT BASED ON VOLUNTARY
17 IDENTIFICATION BY MEDICARE FEE-FOR-SERV-
18 ICE BENEFICIARIES.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For performance
20 year 2018 and each subsequent perform-
21 ance year, if a system is available for elec-
22 tronic designation, the Secretary shall per-
23 mit a Medicare fee-for-service beneficiary
24 to voluntarily identify an ACO professional
25 as the primary care provider of the bene-

1 beneficiary for purposes of assigning such bene-
2 ficiary to an ACO, as determined by the
3 Secretary.

4 “(ii) NOTIFICATION PROCESS.—The
5 Secretary shall establish a process under
6 which a Medicare fee-for-service bene-
7 ficiary is—

8 “(I) notified of their ability to
9 make an identification described in
10 clause (i); and

11 “(II) informed of the process by
12 which they may make and change
13 such identification.

14 “(iii) SUPERSEDING CLAIMS-BASED
15 ASSIGNMENT.—A voluntary identification
16 by a Medicare fee-for-service beneficiary
17 under this subparagraph shall supersede
18 any claims-based assignment otherwise de-
19 termined by the Secretary.”.

1 **TITLE V—EMPOWERING INDI-**
2 **VIDUALS AND CAREGIVERS IN**
3 **CARE DELIVERY**

4 **SEC. 501. ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO CARE COORDINA-**
5 **TION UNDER ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANI-**
6 **ZATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1899 of the Social Secu-
8 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395jjj), as amended by section
9 304(a), is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b)(2), by adding at the end
11 the following new subparagraph:

12 “(I) An ACO that seeks to operate an
13 ACO Beneficiary Incentive Program pursuant
14 to subsection (m) shall apply to the Secretary
15 at such time, in such manner, and with such in-
16 formation as the Secretary may require.”;

17 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
18 section:

19 “(m) **AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE INCENTIVE PAY-**
20 **MENTS TO BENEFICIARIES WITH RESPECT TO QUALI-**
21 **FYING PRIMARY CARE SERVICES.—**

22 “(1) **PROGRAM.—**

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to encourage
24 Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries to obtain
25 medically necessary primary care services, an

1 ACO participating under this section under a
2 payment model described in clause (i) or (ii) of
3 paragraph (2)(B) may apply to establish an
4 ACO Beneficiary Incentive Program to provide
5 incentive payments to such beneficiaries who
6 are furnished qualifying services in accordance
7 with this subsection. The Secretary shall permit
8 such an ACO to establish such a program at
9 the Secretary's discretion and subject to such
10 requirements, including program integrity re-
11 quirements, as the Secretary determines nec-
12 essary.

13 “(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary
14 shall implement this subsection on a date deter-
15 mined appropriate by the Secretary. Such date
16 shall be no earlier than January 1, 2018, and
17 no later than January 1, 2019.

18 “(2) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—

19 “(A) DURATION.—Subject to subpara-
20 graph (H), an ACO Beneficiary Incentive Pro-
21 gram established under this subsection shall be
22 conducted for such period (of not less than 1
23 year) as the Secretary may approve.

24 “(B) SCOPE.—An ACO Beneficiary Incen-
25 tive Program established under this subsection

1 shall provide incentive payments to all of the
2 following Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries
3 who are furnished qualifying services by the
4 ACO:

5 “(i) With respect to the Track 2 and
6 Track 3 payment models described in sec-
7 tion 425.600(a) of title 42, Code of Fed-
8 eral Regulations (or in any successor regu-
9 lation), Medicare fee-for-service bene-
10 ficiaries who are preliminarily prospectively
11 or prospectively assigned (or otherwise as-
12 signed, as determined by the Secretary) to
13 the ACO.

14 “(ii) With respect to any future pay-
15 ment models involving two-sided risk,
16 Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries who
17 are assigned to the ACO, as determined by
18 the Secretary.

19 “(C) QUALIFYING SERVICE.—For purposes
20 of this subsection, a qualifying service is a pri-
21 mary care service, as defined in section 425.20
22 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or in
23 any successor regulation), with respect to which
24 coinsurance applies under part B, furnished
25 through an ACO by—

1 “(i) an ACO professional described in
2 subsection (h)(1)(A) who has a primary
3 care specialty designation included in the
4 definition of primary care physician under
5 section 425.20 of title 42, Code of Federal
6 Regulations (or any successor regulation);

7 “(ii) an ACO professional described in
8 subsection (h)(1)(B); or

9 “(iii) a Federally qualified health cen-
10 ter or rural health clinic (as such terms
11 are defined in section 1861(aa)).

12 “(D) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—An incentive
13 payment made by an ACO pursuant to an ACO
14 Beneficiary Incentive Program established
15 under this subsection shall be—

16 “(i) in an amount up to \$20, with
17 such maximum amount updated annually
18 by the percentage increase in the consumer
19 price index for all urban consumers
20 (United States city average) for the 12-
21 month period ending with June of the pre-
22 vious year;

23 “(ii) in the same amount for each
24 Medicare fee-for-service beneficiary de-
25 scribed in clauses (i) or (ii) of subpara-

1 graph (B) without regard to enrollment of
2 such a beneficiary in a medicare supple-
3 mental policy (described in section
4 1882(g)(1)), in a State Medicaid plan
5 under title XIX or a waiver of such a plan,
6 or in any other health insurance policy or
7 health benefit plan;

8 “(iii) made for each qualifying service
9 furnished to such a beneficiary described
10 in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B)
11 during a period specified by the Secretary;
12 and

13 “(iv) made no later than 30 days after
14 a qualifying service is furnished to such a
15 beneficiary described in clause (i) or (ii) of
16 subparagraph (B).

17 “(E) NO SEPARATE PAYMENTS FROM THE
18 SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall not make
19 any separate payment to an ACO for the costs,
20 including incentive payments, of carrying out
21 an ACO Beneficiary Incentive Program estab-
22 lished under this subsection. Nothing in this
23 subparagraph shall be construed as prohibiting
24 an ACO from using shared savings received

1 under this section to carry out an ACO Bene-
2 ficiary Incentive Program.

3 “(F) NO APPLICATION TO SHARED SAV-
4 INGS CALCULATION.—Incentive payments made
5 by an ACO under this subsection shall be dis-
6 regarded for purposes of calculating bench-
7 marks, estimated average per capita Medicare
8 expenditures, and shared savings under this
9 section.

10 “(G) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—An
11 ACO conducting an ACO Beneficiary Incentive
12 Program under this subsection shall, at such
13 times and in such format as the Secretary may
14 require, report to the Secretary such informa-
15 tion and retain such documentation as the Sec-
16 retary may require, including the amount and
17 frequency of incentive payments made and the
18 number of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries
19 receiving such payments.

20 “(H) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may
21 terminate an ACO Beneficiary Incentive Pro-
22 gram established under this subsection at any
23 time for reasons determined appropriate by the
24 Secretary.

1 “(3) EXCLUSION OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

2 Any payment made under an ACO Beneficiary In-
3 centive Program established under this subsection
4 shall not be considered income or resources or other-
5 wise taken into account for purposes of—

6 “(A) determining eligibility for benefits or
7 assistance (or the amount or extent of benefits
8 or assistance) under any Federal program or
9 under any State or local program financed in
10 whole or in part with Federal funds; or

11 “(B) any Federal or State laws relating to
12 taxation.”;

13 (3) in subsection (e), by inserting “, including
14 an ACO Beneficiary Incentive Program under sub-
15 sections (b)(2)(I) and (m)” after “the program”;
16 and

17 (4) in subsection (g)(6), by inserting “or of an
18 ACO Beneficiary Incentive Program under sub-
19 sections (b)(2)(I) and (m)” after “under subsection
20 (d)(4)”.

21 (b) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1128B.—Section
22 1128B(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-
23 7b(b)(3)) is amended—

24 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
25 graph (I);

1 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
2 paragraph (J) and inserting “; and”; and

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

5 “(K) an incentive payment made to a
6 Medicare fee-for-service beneficiary by an ACO
7 under an ACO Beneficiary Incentive Program
8 established under subsection (m) of section
9 1899, if the payment is made in accordance
10 with the requirements of such subsection and
11 meets such other conditions as the Secretary
12 may establish.”.

13 (c) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

14 (1) EVALUATION.—The Secretary of Health
15 and Human Services (in this subsection referred to
16 as the “Secretary”) shall conduct an evaluation of
17 the ACO Beneficiary Incentive Program established
18 under subsections (b)(2)(I) and (m) of section 1899
19 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395jjj), as
20 added by subsection (a). The evaluation shall include
21 an analysis of the impact of the implementation of
22 the Program on expenditures and beneficiary health
23 outcomes under title XVIII of the Social Security
24 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

1 overlap, and could therefore result in duplicative
2 payment, with services covered under the hospice
3 benefit as well as the chronic care management code,
4 evaluation and management codes, or other codes
5 that already exist under part B of the Medicare pro-
6 gram.

7 (3) Any barriers to hospitals, skilled nursing fa-
8 cilities, hospice programs, home health agencies, and
9 other applicable providers working with a Medicare
10 beneficiary to engage in the care planning process
11 and complete the necessary documentation to sup-
12 port the treatment and care plan of the beneficiary
13 and provide such documentation to other providers
14 and the beneficiary or his representative.

15 (4) Any barriers to providers, other than the
16 provider furnishing longitudinal comprehensive care
17 planning services, accessing the care plan and asso-
18 ciated documentation for use related to the care of
19 the Medicare beneficiary.

20 (5) Potential options for ensuring that applica-
21 ble providers are notified of a patient's existing lon-
22 gitudinal care plan and that applicable providers
23 consider that plan in making their treatment deci-
24 sions, and what the challenges might be in imple-
25 menting such options.

1 (6) Stakeholder’s views on the need for the de-
2 velopment of quality metrics with respect to longitu-
3 dinal comprehensive care planning services, such as
4 measures related to—

5 (A) the process of eliciting input from the
6 Medicare beneficiary or from a legally author-
7 ized representative and documenting in the
8 medical record the patient-directed care plan;

9 (B) the effectiveness and patient-
10 centeredness of the care plan in organizing de-
11 livery of services consistent with the plan;

12 (C) the availability of the care plan and as-
13 sociated documentation to other providers that
14 care for the beneficiary; and

15 (D) the extent to which the beneficiary re-
16 ceived services and support that is free from
17 discrimination based on advanced age, disability
18 status, or advanced illness.

19 (7) Stakeholder’s views on how such quality
20 metrics would provide information on—

21 (A) the goals, values, and preferences of
22 the beneficiary;

23 (B) the documentation of the care plan;

24 (C) services furnished to the beneficiary;

25 and

1 (D) outcomes of treatment.

2 (8) Stakeholder's views on—

3 (A) the type of training and education
4 needed for applicable providers, individuals, and
5 caregivers in order to facilitate longitudinal
6 comprehensive care planning services;

7 (B) the types of providers of services and
8 suppliers that should be included in the inter-
9 disciplinary team of an applicable provider; and

10 (C) the characteristics of Medicare bene-
11 ficiaries that would be most appropriate to re-
12 ceive longitudinal comprehensive care planning
13 services, such as individuals with advanced dis-
14 ease and individuals who need assistance with
15 multiple activities of daily living.

16 (9) Stakeholder's views on the frequency with
17 which longitudinal comprehensive care planning
18 services should be furnished.

19 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
21 shall submit to Congress a report containing the results
22 of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with
23 recommendations for such legislation and administrative
24 action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

25 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPLICABLE PROVIDER.—The term “appli-
2 cable provider” means a hospice program (as defined
3 in subsection (dd)(2) of section 1861 of the Social
4 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww)) or other provider
5 of services (as defined in subsection (u) of such sec-
6 tion) or supplier (as defined in subsection (d) of
7 such section) that—

8 (A) furnishes longitudinal comprehensive
9 care planning services through an interdis-
10 nary team; and

11 (B) meets such other requirements as the
12 Secretary may determine to be appropriate.

13 (2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term
14 “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller Gen-
15 eral of the United States.

16 (3) INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM.—The term
17 “interdisciplinary team” means a group that—

18 (A) includes the personnel described in
19 subsection (dd)(2)(B)(i) of such section 1861;

20 (B) may include a chaplain, minister, or
21 other clergy; and

22 (C) may include other direct care per-
23 sonnel.

24 (4) LONGITUDINAL COMPREHENSIVE CARE
25 PLANNING SERVICES.—The term “longitudinal com-

1 prehensive care planning services” means a vol-
2 untary shared decision-making process that is fur-
3 nished by an applicable provider through an inter-
4 disciplinary team and includes a conversation with
5 Medicare beneficiaries who have received a diagnosis
6 of a serious or life-threatening illness. The purpose
7 of such services is to discuss a longitudinal care plan
8 that addresses the progression of the disease, treat-
9 ment options, the goals, values, and preferences of
10 the beneficiary, and the availability of other re-
11 sources and social supports that may reduce the
12 beneficiary’s health risks and promote self-manage-
13 ment and shared decision making.

14 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

16 **TITLE VI—OTHER POLICIES TO**
17 **IMPROVE CARE FOR THE**
18 **CHRONICALLY ILL**

19 **SEC. 601. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON IMPROVING MEDI-**
20 **CATION SYNCHRONIZATION.**

21 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
22 States (in this section referred to as the “Comptroller
23 General”) shall conduct a study on the extent to which
24 Medicare prescription drug plans (MA–PD plans and
25 standalone prescription drug plans) under part D of title

1 XVIII of the Social Security Act and private payors use
2 programs that synchronize pharmacy dispensing so that
3 individuals may receive multiple prescriptions on the same
4 day to facilitate comprehensive counseling and promote
5 medication adherence. The study shall include a review of
6 the following:

7 (1) The extent to which pharmacies have adopt-
8 ed such programs.

9 (2) The common characteristics of such pro-
10 grams, including how pharmacies structure coun-
11 seling sessions under such programs and the types
12 of payment and other arrangements that Medicare
13 prescription drug plans and private payors employ
14 under such programs to support the efforts of phar-
15 macies.

16 (3) How such programs compare for Medicare
17 prescription drug plans and private payors.

18 (4) What is known about how such programs
19 affect patient medication adherence and overall pa-
20 tient health outcomes and health outcomes, includ-
21 ing if adherence and outcomes vary by patient sub-
22 populations, such as disease state and socioeconomic
23 status.

24 (5) What is known about overall patient satis-
25 faction with such programs and satisfaction with

1 such programs, including within patient subpopula-
2 tions, such as disease state and socioeconomic sta-
3 tus.

4 (6) The extent to which laws and regulations of
5 the Medicare program support such programs.

6 (7) Barriers to the use of medication synchroni-
7 zation programs by Medicare prescription drug
8 plans.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
11 shall submit to Congress a report containing the results
12 of the study under subsection (a), together with rec-
13 ommendations for such legislation and administrative ac-
14 tion as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

15 **SEC. 602. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON IMPACT OF OBESITY**
16 **DRUGS ON PATIENT HEALTH AND SPENDING.**

17 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
18 States (in this section referred to as the “Comptroller
19 General”) shall conduct a study on the use of prescription
20 drugs to manage the weight of obese patients and the im-
21 pact of coverage of such drugs on patient health and on
22 health care spending. Such study shall examine the use
23 and impact of these obesity drugs in the non-Medicare
24 population and for Medicare beneficiaries who have such
25 drugs covered through an MA–PD plan (as defined in sec-

1 tion 1860D–1(a)(3)(C) of the Social Security Act (42
2 U.S.C. 1395w–101(a)(3)(C))) as a supplemental health
3 care benefit. The study shall include an analysis of the
4 following:

5 (1) The prevalence of obesity in the Medicare
6 and non-Medicare population.

7 (2) The utilization of obesity drugs.

8 (3) The distribution of Body Mass Index by in-
9 dividuals taking obesity drugs, to the extent prac-
10 ticable.

11 (4) What is known about the use of obesity
12 drugs in conjunction with the receipt of other items
13 or services, such as behavioral counseling, and how
14 these compare to items and services received by
15 obese individuals who do not take obesity drugs.

16 (5) Physician considerations and attitudes re-
17 lated to prescribing obesity drugs.

18 (6) The extent to which coverage policies cease
19 or limit coverage for individuals who fail to receive
20 clinical benefit.

21 (7) What is known about the extent to which
22 individuals who take obesity drugs adhere to the pre-
23 scribed regimen.

1 (8) What is known about the extent to which
2 individuals who take obesity drugs maintain weight
3 loss over time.

4 (9) What is known about the subsequent impact
5 such drugs have on medical services that are directly
6 related to obesity, including with respect to sub-
7 populations determined based on the extent of obe-
8 sity.

9 (10) What is known about the spending associ-
10 ated with the care of individuals who take obesity
11 drugs, compared to the spending associated with the
12 care of individuals who do not take such drugs.

13 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
15 shall submit to Congress a report containing the results
16 of the study under subsection (a), together with rec-
17 ommendations for such legislation and administrative ac-
18 tion as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.