

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 975

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require coverage under Medicare PDPs and MA–PD plans, without the imposition of cost sharing or utilization management requirements, of drugs intended to treat COVID–19 during certain emergencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Mr. CASTEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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 require coverage under Medicare PDPs and MA–PD plans, without the imposition of cost sharing or utilization management requirements, of drugs intended to treat COVID–19 during certain emergencies.

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 “Ensuring Seniors’ Ac-
5 cess to COVID Treatments Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING COVERAGE UNDER MEDICARE PDPS**
 2 **AND MA-PD PLANS, WITHOUT THE IMPOSI-**
 3 **TION OF COST SHARING OR UTILIZATION**
 4 **MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS, OF DRUGS**
 5 **INTENDED TO TREAT COVID-19 DURING CER-**
 6 **TAIN EMERGENCIES.**

7 (a) COVERAGE REQUIREMENT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1860D-4(b)(3) of
 9 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-
 10 104(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 11 lowing new subparagraph:

12 “(I) REQUIRED INCLUSION OF DRUGS IN-
 13 TENDED TO TREAT COVID-19.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
 15 any other provision of law, a PDP sponsor
 16 offering a prescription drug plan shall,
 17 with respect to a plan year, any portion of
 18 which occurs during the period described
 19 in clause (ii), be required to—

20 “(I) include in any formulary—

21 “(aa) all covered part D
 22 drugs with a medically accepted
 23 indication (as defined in section
 24 1860D-2(e)(4)) to treat COVID-
 25 19 that are marketed in the
 26 United States; and

1 “(bb) all drugs authorized
2 under section 564 or 564A of the
3 Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic
4 Act to treat COVID–19; and

5 “(II) not impose any prior au-
6 thorization or other utilization man-
7 agement requirement with respect to
8 such drugs described in item (aa) or
9 (bb) of subclause (I) (other than such
10 a requirement that limits the quantity
11 of drugs due to safety).

12 “(ii) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—For pur-
13 poses of clause (i), the period described in
14 this clause is the period during which there
15 exists the public health emergency declared
16 by the Secretary pursuant to section 319
17 of the Public Health Service Act on Janu-
18 ary 31, 2020, entitled ‘Determination that
19 a Public Health Emergency Exists Nation-
20 wide as the Result of the 2019 Novel
21 Coronavirus’ (including any renewal of
22 such declaration pursuant to such sec-
23 tion).”.

24 (b) ELIMINATION OF COST SHARING.—

1 (1) ELIMINATION OF COST SHARING FOR
2 DRUGS INTENDED TO TREAT COVID-19 UNDER
3 STANDARD AND ALTERNATIVE PRESCRIPTION DRUG
4 COVERAGE.—Section 1860D-2 of the Social Security
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-102) is amended—

6 (A) in subsection (b)—

7 (i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking
8 “The coverage” and inserting “Subject to
9 paragraph (8), the coverage”;

10 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

11 (I) in subparagraph (A), by in-
12 serting after “Subject to subpara-
13 graphs (C) and (D)” the following:
14 “and paragraph (8)”;

15 (II) in subparagraph (C)(i), by
16 striking “paragraph (4)” and insert-
17 ing “paragraphs (4) and (8)”;

18 (III) in subparagraph (D)(i), by
19 striking “paragraph (4)” and insert-
20 ing “paragraphs (4) and (8)”;

21 (iii) in paragraph (4)(A)(i), by strik-
22 ing “The coverage” and inserting “Subject
23 to paragraph (8), the coverage”;

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

1 “(8) ELIMINATION OF COST-SHARING FOR
 2 DRUGS INTENDED TO TREAT COVID-19.—The cov-
 3 erage does not impose any deductible, copayment,
 4 coinsurance, or other cost-sharing requirement for
 5 drugs described in section 1860D-4(b)(3)(I)(i)(I)
 6 with respect to a plan year, any portion of which oc-
 7 curs during the period during which there exists the
 8 public health emergency declared by the Secretary
 9 pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service
 10 Act on January 31, 2020, entitled ‘Determination
 11 that a Public Health Emergency Exists Nationwide
 12 as the Result of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus’ (in-
 13 cluding any renewal of such declaration pursuant to
 14 such section).”; and

15 (B) in subsection (c), by adding at the end
 16 the following new paragraph:

17 “(4) SAME ELIMINATION OF COST-SHARING FOR
 18 DRUGS INTENDED TO TREAT COVID-19.—The cov-
 19 erage is in accordance with subsection (b)(8).”.

20 (2) ELIMINATION OF COST SHARING FOR
 21 DRUGS INTENDED TO TREAT COVID-19 DISPENSED
 22 TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SUBSIDY ELIGIBLE INDIV-
 23 VIDUALS.—Section 1860D-14(a) of the Social Secu-
 24 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-114(a)) is amended—

25 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (D)—

2 (I) in clause (ii), by striking “In
3 the case of” and inserting “Subject to
4 subparagraph (F), in the case of”;
5 and

6 (II) in clause (iii), by striking
7 “In the case of” and inserting “Sub-
8 ject to subparagraph (F), in the case
9 of”; and

10 (ii) by adding at the end the following
11 new subparagraph:

12 “(F) ELIMINATION OF COST-SHARING FOR
13 DRUGS INTENDED TO TREAT COVID-19.—Cov-
14 erage that is in accordance with section
15 1860D-2(b)(8).”; and

16 (B) in paragraph (2)—

17 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
18 “A reduction” and inserting “Subject to
19 subparagraph (F), a reduction”;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
21 “The substitution” and inserting “Subject
22 to subparagraph (F), the substitution”;

23 (iii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting
24 after “Subject to” the following: “subpara-
25 graph (F) and”; and

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

3 “(F) ELIMINATION OF COST-SHARING FOR
4 DRUGS INTENDED TO TREAT COVID-19.—Cov-
5 erage that is in accordance with section
6 1860D-2(b)(8).”.

7 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other
8 provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human
9 Services may implement the amendments made by this
10 section by program instruction or otherwise.

○