



Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2023

Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.)

The Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2023 would expand and expedite patient access to cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services by authorizing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to order patients to cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation under Medicare. The bill builds upon the innovative *Improving Access to Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Act*, passed as part of the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018* (P.L. 115-123), which authorized these providers to supervise cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation beginning in 2024. Similar bipartisan legislation, H.R. 2583, was introduced in the House of Representatives by Reps Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.) and Adrian Smith (R-Neb.) and Adrian Smith

Cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation are medically directed and supervised programs designed to improve a patient’s physical, psychological, and social functioning. Currently, only physicians are authorized to order cardiac or pulmonary rehabilitation for Medicare patients. This restriction can create unnecessary obstacles, delays, and paperwork before patients can receive the rehabilitation services that are needed on a timely basis and make it challenging for programs to operate in rural and underserved areas where physicians are scarce.

Endorsing Organizations: American Heart Association; American Lung Association; American Nurses Association; National Rural Health Association; American Academy of Physician Assistants; American Association of Nurse Practitioners; American Association for Respiratory Care; American College of Cardiology; American Thoracic Society; Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association; WomenHeart

Section-by-Section Summary:

Section I. Short Title

The “Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2023”

Section II. Expanding Access to Cardiac Rehabilitation Programs and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programs under Medicare Program.

Amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to order patients to cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation under Medicare within 6 months of enactment of the legislation.