

Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2021

Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

The *Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2021* 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 and begin supervising this care. 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. 1956, was introduced in the House of Representatives by Reps Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.) and Adrian Smith (R-Neb.) and Adrian Smith (NE-3) in March.

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 and supervise 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 Association of Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Rehabilitation; American College of Cardiology; American Nurses Association; American Association for Respiratory Care; American Academy of Pas; American Association of Nurse Practitioners; Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

Section-by-Section Summary:

Section I. Short Title

The "Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2021"

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 beginning January 1, 2022.

Section III. Expediting Access to Cardiac Rehabilitation Programs and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programs under Medicare Program.

Amends the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to authorize physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to begin supervising patients' cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation care beginning January 1, 2021 rather than 2022.