

HR 2068 – Bill Overview

HR 2068—Medicare Telehealth Enhancement Act of 2009

Sponsors—Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA); Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI); Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE); Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX)

Summary of Major Provisions:

- 1) Expands access to telehealth services to all areas by eliminating a geographical urban-rural designation.
- 2) Establishes criteria that home telehealth services be considered as a home health visit for eligibility and payment purposes.
- 3) Provides coverage of home health remote patient management services for chronic health conditions.
- 4) Provides for the expansion of the use of store-and-forward technology to include any telehealth program that has received Federal support from CMS, IHS, or HSRA.
- 5) Clarifies the Congressional intent of the term “originating site” to be used only for facility fee payment.
- 6) Expands eligible telehealth providers to include “any supplier or provider of services (other than a physician or practitioner) that is able to provide other telehealth services . . .”
- 7) Stipulates that compliance with Joint Commission standards for telemedicine shall be in compliance with Medicare’s condition of participation and reimbursement credentialing requirements.
- 8) Allows that costs of telehealth services be reported as a reimbursable cost center.
- 9) Establishes a Telehealth Advisory Committee to make recommendations on CMS telehealth policies.
- 10) Provides for a grant program for the development of telehealth networks.
- 11) Reauthorizes telehealth network and telehealth resource centers grant programs.