

Bipartisan, bicameral legislation to modernize transportation reimbursement for portable ultrasound diagnostic services introduced in Congress.

The Portable Ultrasound Reimbursement Equity (PURE) Act would improve access, expand care and reduce burdensome red tape on small businesses

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In a significant step toward ensuring Medicare beneficiaries receive care that best meets their needs, today bipartisan federal legislation was introduced that would modernize Medicare reimbursement for portable diagnostic services to include ultrasound procedures. ***The Portable Ultrasound Reimbursement Equity (PURE) Act***, introduced by Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) (**S.5380**) and by Representatives Beth Van Duyne (R-TX), Brad Schneider (D-IL), Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D. (R-IA) and Lori Trahan (D-MA) (**H.R.10240**), would protect access to portable diagnostic treatments for homebound and nursing home patients across the country, expand care in rural and underserved communities while preventing unnecessary and costly hospital visits.

The legislation aims to recognize portable ultrasound procedures and provide the same transportation reimbursement that Medicare currently allows for portable x-ray services. Advances in technology have made portable ultrasound machines more compact and lightweight with improved imaging capabilities. This has led to an increased demand for these high-quality imaging services to be administered at the bedside enabling the rapid diagnosis of patients for a range of acute and chronic conditions, including blood clots, heart failure, or abdominal disease. Yet, outdated Medicare policy has not kept pace to allow providers of portable diagnostic services to receive reimbursement for ultrasound procedures.

“APDA applauds Sen. Cornyn, Sen. Hassan, Rep. Van Duyne, Rep. Schneider, Rep. Miller-Meeks and Rep. Trahan for their bipartisan leadership to improve and expand access to portable ultrasound exams while lowering the cost of care for patients. The PURE Act will help ensure our members can continue to meet the growing demand across the country for portable diagnostic services to allow seniors and our most vulnerable to receive the treatment they need in the comfort of their own homes.” said Tamara Schwartz, President of the American Portable Diagnostics Association (APDA).

The PURE Act would:

Insert “ultrasound” to clarify the definition of a portable diagnostic supplier.

Currently Medicare does not reimburse portable diagnostics providers to perform ultrasound exams, yet most of their contracts with nursing homes require them to administer the exams anyways. This results in a financial loss when performing portable ultrasound exams and gives little incentive for these small businesses to continue to offer these services. Adding “ultrasound” makes clear these services are included and paves the way for CMS to extend transportation payment to portable ultrasound exams.

Apply the same Medicare transportation reimbursement policy to ultrasound exams that are in place for portable x-ray services. Portable diagnostic providers receive no transportation reimbursement for providing ultrasound services. Congress recognized the importance of providing these transportation reimbursements to ensure access to portable x-ray services. Applying the same reimbursement for portable ultrasound will increase access to safe, convenient and cost-effective care to seniors and the disabled population who are homebound.

Allow Portable Imaging Providers to bill under a single Medicare provider number. The *PURE Act* will simplify and eliminate burdensome red tape that currently prevents portable imaging companies from billing for x-ray and ultrasound services under a single Medicare provider number. This will allow the small business owners who run portable imaging companies to keep their focus on what matters most, providing safe and efficient care to Medicare patients.

ABOUT APDA

The American Portable Diagnostic Association (APDA) is a national, non-profit organization representing small businesses who supply portable diagnostic services, including x-ray, ultrasound, EKG, telemedicine and other emerging portable modalities delivered at the patient’s bedside. Our members serve the most vulnerable citizens – the frail, elderly and disabled in long-term care facilities, hospice settings and in their home. To learn more about APDA, visit our [website](#).