

The Acupuncture for Our Seniors Act H.R. 3133 Fact Sheet

Summary

In May 2023, U.S. Representatives Judy Chu (D-CA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced H.R. 3133, *the Acupuncture for our Seniors Act*. H.R. 3133 would allow the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to recognize qualified acupuncturists as Medicare providers. Medicare recognition would enable acupuncturists to provide covered services to Medicare beneficiaries (generally those 65+) without supervision and bill Medicare directly for these services.

Bill Details

- Medicare covers acupuncture for chronic lower back pain. H.R. 3133 would enable CMS to recognize acupuncturists as providers, so beneficiaries have access to the most qualified provider group for this service.
- Medicare recognition would align Medicare policy with the acupuncturist licensure laws so acupuncturists can provide care to over 60-million Medicare beneficiaries.
- Medicare-provider status would enable acupuncturists to directly bill Medicare for covered services and would remove Medicare's supervision requirement.
- The bill defines 'qualified acupuncturists' as individuals who are licensed, or certified through a national certifying authority, for those in states that do not provide issue licenses for acupuncture.
- H.R. 3133 does not preclude other providers of acupuncture from continuing to provide the service.

Access to Care

H.R. 3133 would modernize the Medicare program by granting provider status to acupuncturists, which would give Medicare beneficiaries direct access to their services.

Access to acupuncturists could improve care and wellness by:

- Providing over 60-million Medicare beneficiaries access to acupuncturists
- Enabling qualified acupuncturists to provide covered services to Medicare beneficiaries
- Establishing an acupuncture-coverage model for third-party payers.

Patient Benefits

The Acupuncture for our Seniors Act would enable qualified acupuncturists to provide patient-centered care to Medicare beneficiaries.

Access to acupuncturists could improve patient outcomes by:

- Providing non-invasive, evidence-based, cost-effective care to manage pain
- Enabling access to personalized healthcare
- Integrating acupuncture services within standard healthcare-management plans.

Cost Considerations

- Acupuncture is a cost-effective, non-invasive pain-management intervention that can help beneficiaries maintain and increase mobility and independence, reduce reliance on prescription pain medications, and decrease the need for surgeries
- Medicare already covers the acupuncture service; H.R. 3133 would enable the most qualified provider of acupuncture to deliver this service to Medicare beneficiaries.