

The Acupuncture for Our Seniors Act H.R. 4803 Fact Sheet

Summary

In July 2021, U.S. Representative Judy Chu (D-CA) introduced H.R. 4803, *the Acupuncture for our Seniors Act*. U.S. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) co-sponsored this bill in 2022. H.R. 4803 would instruct 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

- H.R. 4803 would authorize CMS to recognize acupuncturists as Medicare providers.
- Medicare recognition would align Medicare policy with the acupuncturist scope-of-practice laws so acupuncturists could 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 physician-supervision requirement.
- The bill defines 'qualified acupuncturists' as individuals who are licensed, or certified through a national certifying authority, for individuals in states that do not provide acupuncture licensure.
- H.R. 4803 is bipartisan.

Access to Care

H.R. 4803 would modernize the Medicare program by granting provider status to acupuncturists, which would allow Medicare beneficiaries direct access to acupuncturists.

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 other payers that often follow CMS-coverage policies.

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, non-opioid care to manage acute and
- Enabling access to personalized healthcare.
- Integrating acupuncture services within standard healthcare-management plans.

Cost Considerations

- Acupuncture is a cost-effective pain-management option that can reduce costs associated with opioid reliance, surgeries, time off work, and pharmaceutical prescriptions.
- Medicare already covers the acupuncture service; H.R. 4803 would enable the most qualified provider of acupuncture to deliver this service to Medicare beneficiaries.