

S 3132

Outpatient Surgery Quality and Access Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Nov 2, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Nov 2, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/3132>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|----------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA] | R · LA | | Nov 2, 2021 |
| Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY] | R · WY | | Nov 15, 2022 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Finance Committee | Senate | Referred To | Nov 2, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 117 HR 5818 | Identical bill | Nov 3, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |

Outpatient Surgery Quality and Access Act of 2021

This bill establishes and modifies certain requirements relating to Medicare payments for ambulatory surgical center (ASC) services.

Specifically, the bill (1) requires the payment system for ASC services to feature certain positive annual adjustments equivalent to those made with respect to hospital outpatient department (OPD) services; (2) revises quality reporting requirements to permit publicly available, side-by-side comparisons of quality measures for ASCs and OPDs in the same geographic area; and (3) requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), when excluding requested procedures from the list of those approved to be performed in ASCs, to cite specified reasons for doing so.

With respect to excluding procedures from the approved list for ASCs, the CMS may not cite as a basis for exclusion that a procedure can only be reported using an unlisted surgical procedure code. (Physicians sometimes use unlisted codes when performing new procedures or services if no existing code is adequately descriptive.)

The bill also limits the copayment amount for ASC services under Medicare to that of the inpatient hospital deductible.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 2, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 2, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.