

**Summary of
“Assuring and Improving Cancer Treatment Education and Cancer
Symptom Management Act of 2009”**

In general, the bill:

- (1) amends Medicare to provide for coverage of comprehensive cancer patient treatment education services;
- (2) expands federal research on cancer symptom management and its improvement; and
- (3) provides for an Institute of Medicine report on cancer symptom management.

Sec. 101. Coverage Of Cancer Patient Treatment Education Services.

This section provides for Medicare reimbursement of “comprehensive cancer patient treatment education services” for individuals diagnosed with cancer – and their caregivers – in advance of the onset of treatment and/or when a course of treatment is changed. The Medicare beneficiary coinsurance requirement is waived for this service. The bill ensures that the Medicare payment amounts for chemotherapy infusion or injection codes which may have minutes for chemotherapy teaching or related services cannot be reduced or modified.

Comprehensive cancer patient treatment education services is defined as the provision of a one-hour patient treatment education session delivered by a registered nurse that: educates the patient and the patient’s caregiver(s) about all aspects of the care to be provided to the individual; informs the patient regarding any potential symptoms, side-effects, or adverse events; explains when the health care provider should be contacted, and reviews ways in which side effects and adverse events can be minimized and health and well-being maximized.

Sec. 201. Expansion of Research.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director shall expand and coordinate programs for the conduct and support of research with respect to improving the treatment and management of symptoms and side effects associated with cancer and cancer treatment and evaluating the role of nursing interventions in the improvement of such symptoms and side effects. No specific appropriations are authorized.

Sec. 202. Nursing Intervention Research Grants.

The NIH Director shall establish a program of research grants which have a registered nurse as the principal investigator to study cancer symptom management care and services delivered by registered nurses to cancer patients. “Such sums as may be necessary” are authorized for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

Sec. 203. Institute of Medicine Study on the Provision of Symptom Management and Supportive Care in People with Cancer.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services is directed to enter into an arrangement – within two months of enactment – under which the Institute of Medicine (IOM) shall conduct a study and evaluation – and deliver a report within 18 months of enactment on – the current state of symptom management, patient treatment education, and supportive care given to people with cancer. Such report shall include recommendations for addressing any barriers to the provision of symptom management, patient treatment education, and supportive care to people with cancer. “Such sums as may be necessary” are authorized for this section.