

UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS ACT: WHAT IT MEANS FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES

What is the RESULTS Act?

Background

The Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) was passed in 2014 to create market-based payment rates for clinical laboratory tests under Medicare. However, the payment rates were based on data from less than 1% of laboratories, leading to payment rates that were set too low. As a result, Medicare laboratory payments were reduced by nearly \$4 billion over three years. Without changes to the law, payments for essential laboratory tests could be cut by up to 15% starting in 2027, which could limit access to important diagnostic testing for patients.

The RESULTS Act (H.R. 5269/S. 2761) is bipartisan legislation that would improve how Medicare sets payment rates for lab tests. It would use comprehensive data to set representative rates, reduce administrative burden for labs and Medicare, and mitigate major payment cuts. The goal is to make the system more stable and help protect seniors' access to important diagnostic tests.

How the RESULTS Act Would Reform Medicare Lab Payments

- Ensures that CMS has comprehensive, representative commercial market data through a not-for-profit, independent claims database
- Requires labs to report data directly to CMS for rare or specialized tests, such as proprietary tests and tests for rare diseases
- Changes updates from every 3 years to every 4 years to reduce administrative burden
- Helps prevent destabilizing payment cuts that could disrupt lab services

Why Clinical Lab Payment Reform is Needed

70%

of all medical decisions are influenced by clinical laboratory services, including diagnosis and treatment choices

<1%

of total Medicare spending goes to the Medicare Clinical laboratory payment system, but it has a major impact on patient care

Congress has repeatedly passed temporary delays of these cuts and reporting requirements over the past several years.

The RESULTS Act is intended to provide permanent reform and long-term stability for lab payment policy.

What Can You Do?

- Learn more about the RESULTS Act at stoplabcuts.org
- Share information with others using social media resources
- Reach out to your legislators to express support for the RESULTS Act
- Stay informed on healthcare policy

Make sure to follow @RetireSafe on all social medias for more updates and information on healthcare policy