

21. Automatic enrollment for supplementary medical insurance

The bill provides that the aged and disabled, except for residents of Puerto Rico and foreign countries, would be automatically enrolled for supplementary medical insurance as they become entitled to hospital insurance. Persons eligible for automatic enrollment would, to the extent possible, be fully informed and given an opportunity to decline the coverage.

This provision applies to any individual whose initial enrollment period begins after March 31, 1973, or who becomes entitled to hospital insurance after June 1973.

22. Physical therapy and other therapy services under Medicare

The bill provides coverage under the supplementary medical insurance program, beginning July 1, 1973, for the services of a physical therapist in independent practice when furnished in his office or the patient's home. Reimbursement would be based on not more than \$100 of incurred expenses in a calendar year.

Beginning January 1, 1973, a hospital or extended care facility may provide covered outpatient physical therapy services under the supplementary medical insurance program to its inpatients who have exhausted their days of hospital insurance coverage. In addition, payments to providers for the reasonable cost of physical therapy services furnished under arrangements with others will be limited to amounts equivalent to the salary and other costs that would have been payable if the services had been performed in an employment relationship, plus the cost of such expenses an individual not working as an employee might have, such as maintaining an office, travel expenses, and similar costs.

23. Coverage of speech pathology services under supplementary medical insurance program

The bill provides for coverage of outpatient speech pathology services furnished by approved providers of outpatient physical therapy under the same requirements applicable to the coverage of outpatient physical therapy services.

This provision will be effective January 1, 1973.