H.R. 4614, the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act
Radiology Assistants/Radiology Practitioner Assistant Legislation

- H.R. 4614, the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act.
- Legislation amends SSA to recognize radiologists assistants as non-physician providers of healthcare services to Medicare beneficiaries.
  - Radiologists can use RAs when RAs are legally authorized to perform services under state law (29 states). RAs would be subjected to “direct supervision” (radiologist available in office suite), as opposed to “personal supervision” (radiologist physically present in room where procedure is taking place) requirement.
  - RAs can perform imaging services under the “direct” supervision of a radiologist BUT are prohibited from interpreting results.
- Bill also authorizes reimbursement through CMS for procedures performed by RAs in states that have law establishing radiologist assistant practice guidelines.
  - Under the legislation, Radiology Assistants only receive 85% of the PC normally provided to the radiologist.
Radiology Assistants/Radiology Practitioner Assistant Legislation

• Legislation Introduced by Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX), House Energy and Commerce Committee.
  – Original Cosponsors: Reps. Dave Reichert (R-WA), Mike Doyle (D-PA), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), and Ron Kind (D-WI).

• At this time, no Senate companion legislation.

• Primary supporters of the legislation include ACR, American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT), American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), and the Society of Radiology Physician Extenders (SRPE).

• No CBO Score accompanies the legislation. August 2010 Moran Company analysis stated that, because of the relatively limited scope of the policy and small supply of RAs, they expect CBO to conclude that recognizing RAs would not result in increased cost.
  – RA policy would only cost money if it results in major shift of services away from office and into the hospital setting.