Patient Navigator Program

**Summary:** Reauthorizes demonstration programs to provide patient navigator services within communities to assist patients in overcoming barriers to health services. Program facilitates care by assisting individuals coordinate health services and provider referrals, assist community organizations in helping individuals receive better access to care, information on clinical trials, and conduct outreach to health disparity populations.

**Additional information:**
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) information regarding the funded patient navigator projects -- [http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/patientnavigator/](http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/patientnavigator/)
- American Cancer Society's patient navigator program -- [http://www.cancer.org/InYourArea/Ohio/ProgramsandServices/patient-navigators](http://www.cancer.org/InYourArea/Ohio/ProgramsandServices/patient-navigators)

**Long summary:**
**Sec. 3510. Patient navigator program.**
Reauthorizes demonstration programs to provide patient navigator services within communities to assist patients in overcoming barriers to health services through fiscal year 2015. Makes two additional changes to the program: (1) limits the grant period to four years; and (2) requires patient navigators to meet minimum core proficiencies. The program facilitates care by assisting individuals coordinate health services and provider referrals, assists community organizations in helping individuals receive better access to care, provides information on clinical trials, and conducts outreach to health disparity populations.

**Legislative text:**
SEC. 3510. PATIENT NAVIGATOR PROGRAM.
Section 340A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256a) is amended—
(1) by striking subsection (d)(3) and inserting the following:
“(3) LIMITATIONS ON GRANT PERIOD.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the total period of a grant does not exceed 4 years.”;
(2) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following:
“(3) MINIMUM CORE PROFICIENCIES.—The Secretary shall not award a grant to an entity under this section unless such entity provides assurances that patient navigators recruited, assigned, trained, or employed using grant funds meet minimum core proficiencies, as defined by the entity that submits the application, that are tailored for the main focus or intervention of the navigator involved.”; and
(3) in subsection (m)—
(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and $3,500,000 for fiscal year 2010.” and inserting “$3,500,000 for fiscal year 2010, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015.”; and
(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2010” and inserting “2015”.

PPACA: A Closer Look