



Private Practice Section, APTA

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# PPS: WHO WE ARE

*The Private Practice Section (PPS) of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) represents more than 4,200 physical therapists practicing in independent settings. Their businesses are both large and small, some with single locations, some with many locations across multiple states and regions. These therapists compete on the basis of cost, quality, and convenience with rehabilitation therapy delivered in hospitals, nursing homes, and doctors' offices.*

## Legislative & Advocacy Priorities 115th Congress

PPS is committed to pursuing the following legislative and regulatory priorities:

### Medicare Issues



- Achieve legislation that allows physical therapists in private practice to opt-out of Medicare or privately contract with Medicare patients
- Pursue favorable resolution including repeal or replacement of the arbitrary per beneficiary therapy cap on outpatient rehabilitation covered by Medicare
- Achieve legislation that allows reimbursement through Medicare and Federal Health plans for physical therapy care through telehealth
- Monitor and respond to Medicare payment reform proposals, and continue to fight for fair and equitable Medicare reimbursement for physical therapists in private practice
- Oppose increased privatization of the Medicare program that would result in an increased administrative burden for providers or that negatively impacts our patients
- Monitor the implementation of the new evaluation codes and pursue appropriate values for each code
- Achieve consistent Medicare standards for supervision of support personnel across physical therapy practice settings
- Address and mitigate the negative effects associated with physician self-referral
- Continue to pursue the expansion of the locum tenens provision of Medicare to include physical therapists practicing in all communities
- Promote policy that embraces the use of physical therapists in private practice as timely evaluators and managers of quality of life for patients with chronic conditions
- Oppose an increase to Medicare's eligibility age
- Remove the barriers to patient access to physical therapists in private practice under Medicare and the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans
- Encourage and achieve a streamlined, responsive, and transparent process for manual medical review of Medicare records by Medicare administrative contractors
- Pursue repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)
- Promote the adoption by Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) of quality measures that include functional health status

## ACA Reform



- Promote physical therapy as an essential health benefit (EHB) in all insurance plans
- Advocate to retain guaranteed access to insurance for those with pre-existing conditions as well as the ban on rescission for those who do have coverage
- Support consumer choice and shopping at the point of care through improved price transparency by health care providers
- Advocate to maintain requirements that children up to age 26 are able to remain on their parents' health insurance

## Insurance Reforms



- Promote administrative simplification, specifically advocate for the standardization of process for eligibility for coverage and authorization of services
- Address and mitigate the negative effects of market control by insurance plans and related entities on physical therapists in private practice and their patients
- Support policy that requires provider networks to be of the size, scope, geography, and expertise necessary to increase patient choice; oppose policies that unreasonably limit patient access and choice of physical therapist
- Support opportunities for consumers to purchase health insurance across state lines
- Pursue elimination of arbitrary limits and denials for services provided by physical therapists in private practice in accordance with evidence of value

## Small Business Issues



- Support legislation that allows small businesses to form groups for the purpose of purchasing health insurance for themselves and their employees
- Pursue federal student loan repayment programs in underserved areas that enhance recruitment efforts of physical therapy private practices in these areas
- Monitor, respond to, and participate in tax reform efforts to benefit physical therapists in private practice

## Other



- Promote policy that increases opportunities for Veterans to receive outpatient services provided by physical therapists in private practice
- Mandate that physical therapists in private practice are included in the medical team providing concussion management