

July 29, 2021



Message from the Practice Committee

The Practice Committee increases Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy involvement with the Departments of Government Affairs and Reimbursement at APTA. Participates in activities, which promote and modify the practice of neurologic physical therapy. Serves as a resource to accrediting agencies to establish guidelines to neurologic practice.

[Practice Resources on the ANPT Webpage](#)

Hello Academy Members! The ANPT Practice Committee is dedicating Part 1 of our Message to payment and practice updates including best practices in telehealth, information blocking, diversity, equity, and inclusion and resources on neurogenic bladder. We hope these resources assist you in staying current in your practice. Stay tuned for Part 2 of the Message next week and will include resources from the SIGS and ANPT work groups.

Telehealth Updates

Telehealth rules, regulations, and reimbursement rates are continuously evolving. Ensure your neuro practice is staying up to date with the latest information by checking your state's rules and regulations and the reimbursement rates and guidelines for the payers most commonly used at your practice. Licensure and reimbursement are two of the most common areas clinician need to be aware of. Some key questions to consider are:

- Have there been changes to your [state practice act](#) regarding telehealth or have any of the temporary telehealth state waivers or executive orders expired?
- Has your state established payment parity with in-person services?
- Does your state have specific rules regarding telehealth for Medicaid recipients or other coding requirements for 3rd party payers?
 1. Is telehealth covered for both new and existing clients?
 2. What CPT codes are allowed to be billed as telehealth?
 3. Are there any location restrictions (which type of sites can bill telehealth) and required modifiers?

You may also have clients who would benefit from telehealth but are limited by equipment or necessary resources. The [Emergency Broadband Benefit](#) is available through the [Federal Communication Commission \(FCC\) program](#) to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic.

For therapists who are just getting started, the APTA now has a [Telehealth Certificate Series](#) available through the APTA Learning Center. The ANPT has also recently appointed a Neurologic Telehealth Task Force and soon there will be added resource to the ANPT page. Stay tuned!

Information Blocking: The What and Why

New federal regulations on information blocking went into effect on April 5th. Do you know what has changed or how it will impact your practice?

- **What is Information Blocking?** Information blocking is a practice by certain entities that is likely to interfere with, prevent, or discourage the access, exchange, or use of electronic health information.
- **Does this law affect PTs and PTAs?** Yes, as physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, you are subject to the rule, with financial disincentives or penalties for noncompliance.
- **How does this law affect me?** The rule allows you to think more strategically about how you share health information. Additionally, therapists in all settings should be aware that patients are more likely to read their documentation.
- **Where can I learn more?** The APTA has compiled several resources to help you understand and comply with this new rule. This [article in APTA magazine](#) and the [CMS Fact Sheet](#) can help you understand what constitutes information blocking and how to comply with the new regulations.

Additional resources can be found here:

- APTA Podcast on [Understanding Information Blocking](#)
- APTA Learning Center has a course that is **FREE** to members on the [Practical Application of Information Blocking](#) that is geared towards physical therapists.
- APTA Summary on [Resources to Help You Comply with Information Blocking Rules](#) which includes a link to FAQs.

Supporting DEI Within Neurologic Rehabilitation

The discussion around diversity, equity, and inclusion continues within the profession of physical therapy. Neurologic physical therapists are well positioned to create inclusive healthcare environments and promote diversity with the profession. Below are resources to stay informed and gain ideas on ways to contribute to the national DEI initiative.

- View the 2021 Lynda D. Woodruff Lecture titled [“Road to Success: Are We Ready to Change Direction?”](#) which includes a lecture and panel discussion on ways to promote diversity in the profession.
- APTA Summary on the Woodruff



- Lecture is available for those who don't have time for the full recording.
- Read the February 2021 APTA Magazine article on [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Physical Therapy](#) to gain insights on the state of diversity within our profession.
 - Support the Workforce Diversity Bill that is currently in congress. This legislation, if passed, set aside money for PT and PTA educational programs for community outreach, mentorship, scholarships, and stipends which are focused on increasing students from underrepresented populations. See the APTA [Summary on the Workforce Diversity Bill](#) for ways to contribute to the advocacy effort.

What have you done to support DEI in neurologic rehabilitation? Have you considered any of the ideas in the image? Be sure to share additional ideas you have that are not listed!

Addressing Neurogenic Bladder

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Neurogenic Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction (NLUTD) was launched in 2019 and includes a diverse team of physicians (rehabilitation, urology, pediatrics), researchers, and people with NLUTD. The group is located across the United States and have a passion to advance science, health care, and quality of life around this common condition. They have developed podcasts for clinicians, scientists, non-scientists, adults, kids, and everyone in between. They cover a wide range of topics, from the basics of neurogenic bladder and its management, to being in a relationship, dating, and social justice. If you or your patients would like more information on neurogenic bladder, you can find [BladderBuzz](#) on iPhone Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Stitcher and Spotify.

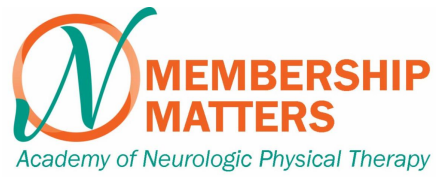
The Practice Committee

We hope you have found these resources useful. The ANPT Practice Committee welcomes your feedback and questions. Please send all inquiries to Heather Knight at info@neuropt.org

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