

April 26, 2022



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 the CMS proposed rule, DEI resources, and information on clinical prediction rules and clinical practice guidelines. We hope these resources assist you in staying current in your practice. Stay tuned for Part 2 of the Message which will come out within the next week and will include resources from the SIGS and ANPT work groups.

Register Now! Hot Topic Webinar Series- Hosted by the ANPT Practice Committee

Don't miss the upcoming [two-part webinar series](#) by Julie Hershberg, PT, DPT, NCS and Chelsea Richardson, PT, DPT, NCS as they present on Functional Movement Disorders (FMD) on May 10th and May 18th. Part 1 will focus on assessment and Part 2 will focus on intervention strategies for FMD, one of the most challenging yet increasingly prevalent conditions encountered in neurologic physical therapy practice. Save money and [register](#) for both!

Public Health Emergency Extended...Again

On April 12, 2022, Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra renewed the Public Health Emergency (PHE) due to COVID-19. The new expiration date of the PHE is the end of the day on July 14, 2022. **This extension allows PTs to continue providing services via telehealth under Medicare for an additional five months past the end of the PHE** allowing the profession more time to advocate for a more permanent change.

For more information on how to advocate for the expansion of telehealth services visit the [APTA Patient Action Center](#)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources

Learn about healthcare disparities faced by LGBTQ+ and cultural competence when working with LGBTQ+ patients in the [Introduction to LGBTQ+ Competency Handbook](#)

[for Physical Therapy](#) developed by PT Proud. PT Proud is the LGBTQ+ Committee of the Health Policy & Administration Section of the American Physical Therapy Association. For resources and updates, follow them on [Facebook](#) or Instagram [@pt_proud_hpa](#)

Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) vs. Clinical Prediction Rules (CPR)

As neurologic physical therapists work to uphold the highest standards of evidence-based practice, Clinical Practice Guidelines and Clinical Prediction Rules are some of the available tools to guide best practice. [Clinical Practice Guidelines](#) are graded recommendations on best practice for a specific condition based on the systematic review and evaluation of the quality of the scientific literature. Clinical prediction rules assist in making a physical therapy diagnosis, establishing a prognosis, or implementing an intervention.

- Need help determining the prognosis for recovery of ambulation for your patient who is recovering from a recent stroke? Check out this [clinical prediction rule calculator](#).
- Want to know the most updated information on the available CPR for ambulation following spinal cord injury? Check out the [SCI SIG summary](#).
- Unsure what to expect regarding recovery of [upper extremity function](#) following stroke? Check out the [PREP2 algorithm](#).
- Trying to determine whether or not your patient with [acute dizziness](#) is having a stroke? Check out the [HINTS Plus](#).

APTA's New Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Course Series

Achieving greater diversity, equity, and inclusion begins with understanding why change is needed in the first place: that's the idea behind a new learning opportunity from APTA that helps you identify the factors that work against DEI and take real-world steps to make a difference. The [APTA Bundle](#) is a series of three recorded presentations addressing: Unconscious Bias in the Health Professions; Power, Privilege, and Microaggressions; and Responding to Microaggressions Through Allyship.

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Proposed Rule Updates

Proposed Rule:

CMS released the fiscal year (FY) 2023 proposed rule for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRF) ([click here](#)) on March 31st and for Skilled Nursing Facilities for Part A services reimbursed under Patient Driven Payment Model (SNF PPS) ([click here](#)) on April 11th.

- **IRF** proposed rules have minimal changes accompanied by a 2% increase. Additionally, CMS has a request for public comments by May 31st on quality reporting measures concept, promoting health equity, quality data reporting

and transfer policy rules to home health discharges.

- **SNF PPS** builds upon the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to advance health equity, drive high-quality person-centered care, and promote sustainability of its programs, which will result in a .7% drop in payment to skilled nursing facilities. Other important points noted in the proposed rule include:
 - Application of a permanent 5 percent cap on any decreases to a provider's wage index from its wage index in the prior year, regardless of the circumstances causing the decline.
 - Changes to the ICD-10 mappings and lists
 - Adoption of three new measures into the Value Based Purchasing Program including for FFY 2026 total nursing staffing and health care-associated infections and FFY 2027 discharge to community.
- CMS is also seeking public feedback (by June 10) on how staffing in nursing homes and health equity improvements could lead to better health outcomes.
- APTA has also provided a more detailed review [here](#) and is offering a [FREE Payment & Regulatory Update Series](#) for APTA members on Wednesday, May 18th.

Other updates:

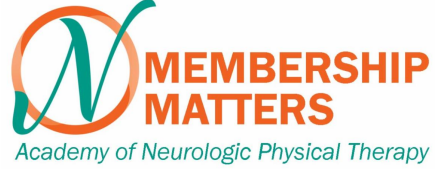
The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 established several new requirements to protect consumers from surprise medical bills. On April 6, 2022, CMS published a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document for providers regarding the No Surprise Rules. Answered questions include: requirements and prohibitions, application for insurances, where to send questions, what providers it applies to and others. CMS continues to review the need for existing emergency blanket waivers for special providers issued in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (PHE). On April 7, 2022, CMS issued a [memo](#) regarding the updates to PHE Waivers. Many waivers are set to expire in 30 or 60 days.

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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