

November 9, 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 updates from the House of Delegates, Medicare reimbursement changes, student loan forgiveness, DEI resources, and promoting physical activity in patients with neurologic conditions. 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.

## APTA 2021 House of Delegates

In September, APTA celebrated 100 years of history in Washington D.C. Key actions adopted by the 77th House of Delegates over the past two years include:

- Addressing Systemic Racism and DEI: APTA is "committed to being an anti-racist organization" that believes the association and members, collectively and individually, "have an obligation to address policies and practices that perpetuate systemic racism and inequity in our association, the profession, and society" was adopted overwhelmingly by delegates. Additionally, "inclusion" has now been added to the **core values for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants**.
- Promoting the role of physical therapist services in recovery from COVID-19 and post-acute sequelae of SARS CoV-2
- Urging the APTA to take a closer look at specialization within the profession, including creating "a long-term strategy to enhance the evolution and integration of specialization, and potentially sub-specialization, into the advanced practice of physical therapy"

## Stabilizing Medicare Access to Rehabilitation in Outpatient Settings

On October 8th, a bill was introduced in congress entitled the Stabilizing Medicare Access to Rehabilitation and Therapy (SMART) Act of 2021 (H.R.5536). This bill will provide for a temporary delay to a reimbursement reduction in the

CY 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The bill may impact neurologic PTs and PTAs by:



- Delaying the implementation date of the Medicare 15% physical therapy assistant and occupational therapy assistant differential to January 1, 2023
- Providing exemptions to the PTA differential in rural and underserved areas
- Allowing for general supervision of PTAs in outpatient settings under Medicare Part B which would align with supervision requirements in all other practice settings

Read more about the proposed bill through the [APTA News](#) or watch this [APTA video on the PTA differential](#). (see video image link above)

Congress needs to take action on this bill before this policy is implemented on January 1, 2022 to avoid the cuts. Utilize the [APTA Action Center](#) to send an email to your representative. Look for the initiative labeled "Support Physical Therapist Assistants".

If the legislation is not passed, the new fee schedule and [CQ payment modifier](#) will be in effect January 1, 2022.

## Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics and Supplies (DMEPOS) Policy Update

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has created an exclusion policy for complex wheelchair equipment from the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program (CBP). This includes accessories and seating systems associated with group 3 or higher complex rehabilitation power wheelchair and complex manual wheelchairs.

You can learn more about payment changes that will occur as a result of CMS final rule, including the DMEPOS exclusion, in [APTA's Review Article](#). The new guidelines set by CMS's final rule went into effect on October 1st.

## Updates to Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF)

On October 6, 2021 the Department of Education announced a time-limited waiver to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. This program applies to employees working for a government or non-profit organizations which includes many neurologic physical therapists. The waiver applies to Direct

Loans, Federal Family Education Loans, and Perkins Loans and has the potential to significantly decrease the amount of time left before loan forgiveness is achieved.

### Immediate changes that borrowers should be aware of:

- Limited-time PSLF waiver to count all prior payments made, regardless of loan type or repayment plan. **Applicants must submit necessary paperwork by October 31, 2022**
- Automatically adjust PSLF qualifying payment counts for borrowers that otherwise would not have qualified due technical requirements around choice of payment plan, timing, and amount of payment
- Eliminate barriers for military service members to access PSLF.
- Automatically help service members and federal employees access PSLF
- Review denied PSLF applications and identify and correct errors in processing

### Upcoming changes to PSLF program:

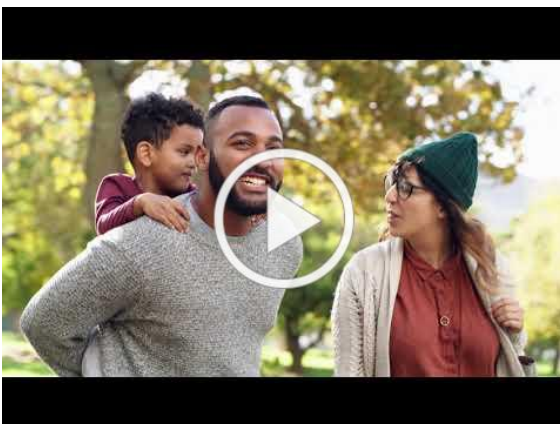
- Improve outreach and communication with PSLF-eligible borrowers
- Simplify PSLF application process
- Make long-term improvements to PSLF through rulemaking

For more information on the PSLF program, [click here](#) For more information on the program waiver and to ensure that your contact information is up to date, [click here](#).

## 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.

## Help Individuals With Neurologic Conditions Be More Active



The **APTA's national public awareness campaign** stresses the importance of physical activity to maintain health and we are not alone. An increasing number of organizations are echoing the association's call for more emphasis on the benefits of movement throughout life. **Move United**, an affiliate of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, uses the power of sport to push what's possible for people with disabilities,

confronting ignorance, fueling conversation, and inciting action that leads us to a world where everyone's included.

## 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](mailto:info@neuropt.org)

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