October 25, 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: resources for COVID and long-term neurologic complications, highlights from the annual ANPT conference, updates to the ANPT Education Center, payment and policy updates, and celebrating National PT Month. 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.

Resources for COVID & Long-Term Neurologic Complications

- A study recently published in Nature Medicine found that there is an increased risk of "an array of neurologic disorders spanning several disease categories" in the post-acute phase of COVID-19 recovery, even in individuals who did not require hospitalization in the acute phase of COVID-19. This information adds to the growing understanding that neurologic clinicians will continue to have a critical role in the rehabilitation of this population. Click <u>here</u> to view the full article.
- Recommendations for safe rehabilitation approaches for long COVID can be found <u>here</u>.
- In case you missed it, please see this <u>podcast</u> regarding discussion of <u>outcome</u> <u>measures</u> for individuals recovering from COVID-19.
- Additional resources for long COVID can be found in the <u>World Physiotherapy</u> <u>Advocacy Toolkit.</u>

Highlights from the 2nd Annual ANPT Conference

The 2_{nd} Annual Conference for ANPT was held in Minneapolis Oct 13-15 th. There were over 270 clinicians, educators, and researchers in attendance with over 28 programs and 7 networking sessions. The keynote speaker, James Sultzer, PhD, provided a scientist-caregiver perspective of pediatric TBI and set the tone for the conference on patient first care and priorities for patients and families. The networking and poster sessions provided great opportunities for collaboration. The ANPT forum on classification for locomotion highlighted the challenges we face with Observational Gait Analysis and discussed four gait classifications we can consider using in neurologic rehabilitation. More to come in the future in this area.

Check Out the Updated ANPT Education Center

The Education Center is the hub for ANPT educational materials including courses, recorded webinars, podcasts, and information on ANPT conferences. Click <u>here</u> to take a look at all the resources the Education Center has to offer.

Payment & Policy Updates

ICD-10 updates: As routinely occurs each year in October, ICD-10 updates are implemented by health insurance payers. The October 2022 update includes updates to several code categories that are commonly used for therapy services.

<u>Medicare Providers Act of 2022 (H.R.8800)</u> On September 13, 2022, U.S. Representatives Ami Bera (D-CA) and Larry Bucshon (R-IN), introduced bipartisan legislation that intends to prevent the impending 2023 4.42% Medicare pay cut. The bill also includes a sense of Congress on future PFS reform that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the U.S. House of Representatives, and U.S. Senate should commit to take administrative and legislative actions to: ensure financial stability and predictability in the Medicare physician payment system; promote and reward value-based care innovation; and safeguard timely access to high-quality care by advancing health equity and reducing disparities. Congress has "provider fatigue," and they are becoming weary of intervening, yet again, for the third year in a row to provide PFS relief that is so desperately needed.

Stabilizing Medicare Access to Rehabilitation and Therapy (SMART) Act (H.R.5536)

currently has up to 40 cosponsors. The bill would: delay the physical therapist assistant differential until 2023; provide for an exemption to the payment differential for providers who serve patients in rural and underserved areas; and align Medicare direct supervision requirements with state law by allowing for general supervision of physical therapist assistants (PTAs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) in private practice settings.

Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (H.R.3173/S.3018) unanimously passed in the House of Representative on September 14, 2022. The bill will provide muchneeded oversight and transparency for Medicare beneficiaries under Medicare Advantage plans.

October is National Physical Therapy Month!

As the 30th anniversary of National Physical Therapy Month draws to a close, we would like to acknowledge all of the dedicated professionals within the ANPT community and thank you for all that you do for this profession. Check out the <u>APTA</u> <u>website</u> for ways to celebrate physical therapy, educate consumers, and engage in service activities.

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 Danny Miner at <u>info@neuropt.org</u>

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*All committee members are Board Certified Clinical Specialists in Neurologic Physical Therapy (ABPTS)



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