

Federal Affairs Liaison Update

In March, the Federal Affairs Liaison Committee discussed recent regulatory and congressional updates.

Regulatory Updates

Therapy Cap Reprocessing Guidance: CMS has issued guidance to the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) on the reprocessing of therapy claims with the KX modifier and released a provider education article. The MACs are instructed to automatically reprocess therapy claims with the KX modifier which were denied prior to implementation of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, claims which were denied due to an error in a Technical Direction Letter attachment dated February 12, 2018. Contractors also are instructed to reprocess Medicare Physician Fee Schedule claims impacted by the work Geographic Practice Cost Index Floor fee increase, install the revised home health Pricer which reflects the extension of the 3% home health rural add-on, and more. Contractors shall ensure all reprocessing actions have been initiated within 6 months.

To view the MLN MM10531 provider article: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM10531.pdf>

APTA, AOTA, and ASHA plan to meet with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid and Medicaid Innovation Center to discuss alternative payment models and inclusion of therapy providers.

Congressional Updates

One of the biggest issues discussed in Congress right now is the opioids epidemic. The Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Senate HELP and Finance Committees are all holding hearings and both chambers intend to bring comprehensive packages to the House and Senate floors later this year. APTA has been involved in meetings and hearings to make sure that physical therapy is included as an alternative option.

APTA met with TRICARE in early February regarding the implementation of PTAs as providers. The proposed rule will be released sometime in the fall of 2018 or early spring of 2019. There will be a 60-day comment period.

APTA is active in the opposition of H.R. 620 which is the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017; this bill would gut portions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. However, an accompanying bill has not been introduced in the Senate and we do not anticipate this being passed.

To become a key contact to a US Senator or Representative or to host an event, contact SCAPTA Federal Affairs Liaison Cathy Arnot at arnot@mailbox.sc.edu or send a message to our office at southcarolina@apta.rog and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @SCAPTA1.