**APTA INDIANA PRACTICE AND PAYMENT UPDATE – SEPT. 28, 2020**

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**One Week Left to Write CMS: Here is Why it Matters**

CMS has proposed that physical therapy codes receive approximately a 9% cut in the Proposed 2021 Physician Fee Schedule. We, as a profession, have about one week left to submit comments in opposition to this proposed policy before the October 5th deadline. Here is why it is important to act today to write CMS before the deadline. Please, also, share this with your coworkers if they have not already submitted their comments.

These letters become part of the formal record of this rulemaking policy. As a result, the comments make it difficult for CMS to justify moving forward with the policy if they have thousands of letters opposing the policy.

If this policy is enacted and an association or a multitude of associations were to sue CMS because of this policy, the court looks at the volume of comments and what the volume of comments indicate. If there is overwhelming opposition from stakeholders, the court is more likely to find that CMS did not act reasonable in finalizing the policy without change.

Congress wants to see that we, the stakeholders, have expressed our opposition to CMS. If only a few thousand letters are sent to CMS, that is not showing that this is a big deal but 30K to 50K letters to CMS does get Congress's attention and the message across that these cuts will hurt patients.

As of 9/24/20 there were 8,000 comments to CMS from the physical therapy profession. We need everyone's voice! Click[**HERE**](https://www.apta.org/advocacy/take-action/patient-action-center?vvsrc=/campaigns/76461/respond) to submit your comments to CMS.

Please also write your representatives of Congress. Click[**HERE**](https://www.apta.org/advocacy/issues/medicare-physician-fee-schedule) to write Congress.

Click[**HERE**](https://www.apta.org/your-career/courses-and-events/calendar-of-events/2020/09/30/apta-rally-take-fightthecut-to-medicare) to sign up to be a part of the APTA Rally: Take #FightTheCut to Medicare September 30th at 7:00 pm ET.

**American Medical Association CPT Update**

**New CPT Code Available to PTs Could Help Offset Coronavirus-Related Expenses**

Recently, the American Medical Association published an update to the [Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)](https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt) code set that includes a code for reporting expenses incurred as a result of the necessary public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The code — 99072 — is a new practice expense code that describes the additional supplies and clinical staff time required to stop the spread of the coronavirus while still providing safe in-person visits.

The code should be reported only once per in-person patient encounter (office visit or other service), regardless of the number of services provided during the visit, the guidance says, but use of the code isn't dependent on a specific patient diagnosis.

The new code is available for immediate reporting on claims; however, CMS has not yet published an opinion on whether 99072 is covered under Medicare. Providers should verify with their state Medicaid programs and commercial insurers regarding eligibility for payment and coverage of the code.

Click [HERE](https://www.apta.org/news/2020/09/25/new-cpt-code-covid) to learn more about the code from APTA.

**Telemedicine**

The Indiana governor has continued to extend telemedicine privileges through the public health emergency through November 1, 2020 with his most recent Executive Order 10-44.

**AIM survey**

APTA, over the past year, has been meeting with Anthem/AIM and communicating issues physical therapy providers have been incurring with the prior authorization process for their beneficiaries. A focused survey has been developed to gain insight into members' experience with AIM's peer to peer review process. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey with the assistance of the person that obtains the authorization as needed. The results of the survey will be aggregated and communicated with members, APTA, Anthem and AIM.

[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3LQXRVD**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3LQXRVD)