



# FAL Briefing Memo

December 2022

## U.S. Congress

- On December 5, 2022 in a [joint letter to leaders of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives](#), APTA and more than 100 other organizations call on lawmakers to stop the entire 4.5% reduction to the Medicare conversion factor included in the 2023 fee schedule by providing additional funding, as it did in both 2020 and 2021. The conversion factor is used to calculate payment for codes commonly used by PTs and 27 other specialties. The three-paragraph letter gets straight to the point, stating that in addition to facing a 4.5% reduction in payment, clinicians across the country are dealing with the effects of inflation. Making matters worse, according to the coalition, is the fact that the fee schedule is the only payment system in Medicare that lacks an annual inflationary update; even if Congress were to provide the necessary 4.5% relief, clinicians would still be facing inflation-related pressures that the fee schedule can't address.

## Federal Agencies

- **NIDLIRR:** To provide preliminary input on the development of the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research's (NIDLIRR) next Long-Range Plan for 2024-2028, APTA co-signed a letter drafted by the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition of which APTA is a steering committee member. The letter applauded NIDLIRR's approach to stakeholder engagement, provided input on key areas of research moving forward, and advised on new opportunities that exist to expand the research and grant processes. These comments were in addition to the verbal comments provided during NIDLIRR's recent listening sessions.
- **Medicaid:** On December 5, 2022, members from the APTA Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy and APTA Health Policy and Payment staff met with the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation (OSERS), Katy Neas, and Director of the Office of Special Education (OSEP), Valerie C. Williams, to discuss the implementation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. OSERS is currently seeking stakeholder feedback on the development of a technical assistance guidance document and resource center that will assist state Medicaid agencies in billing physical therapy services in schools. APTA looks forward to ongoing conversations with Secretary Neas and Director Williams.

## Member Engagement & Events

- APTA staff are participating in the National Quality Forum's (NQF) Measures Application Partnership Clinician Workgroup meeting scheduled for December 15-16, 2022. This

workgroup will be making recommendations regarding measures under consideration for CMS quality programs including the low back pain cost measure.

- APTA Payment & Regulatory Webinar: Scheduled for November 30, 2022, topics to be discussed include: 2023 Medicare Home Health Final Rule, 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule, and Commercial Payer Update. Register at: [Live Webinar | Payment Regulatory Update | APTA](#)

## APTA Articles of Interest

- [News | APTA, APTA North Carolina Score Digital Health Win | APTA](#)
- [News | APTA, 100-Plus Other Groups to Congress: Fix the 2023 Fee Schedule Now | APTA](#)
- [Recorded Webinar | Payment and Regulatory Update: Nov. 30, 2022 | APTA](#)
- [News | APTA-Backed PTA Supervision Legislation Is a Win-Win-Win | APTA](#)
- [Statement | A Call to Action from APTA President Roger Herr, PT, MPA | APTA](#)
- [News | APTA-Supported Lymphedema Act Passes House | APTA](#)
- [News | More APTA Members Will Serve on Key AMA Coding Committees | APTA](#)
- [News | APTA Provides Insight on Physical Therapy and Digital Technology as Campaign Grows | APTA](#)