



Federal Affairs Liaison Monthly Meeting

December 17, 2025

8:00 p.m. ET

Agenda

- **Regulatory Update**

- Rachel Miller, Senior Specialist, Health Policy and Payment

- **Grassroots Update**

- Laura Keivel, Senior Specialist, Grassroots and Political Affairs

- **PTPAC Update**

- Michael Matlack, Director of Congressional Affairs

- **Congressional Update**

- Justin Elliott, VP, Government Affairs
- Brian Allen, Senior Specialist, Government Affairs
- Steve Kline, Senior Specialist, Government Affairs

Regulatory Update



Final Rule:

2026 Home Health Prospective Payment System



Finalized Payment Policies: Annual Payment Rate Updates

2026 Payment Rate | Final Update: -1.3% (\$220 million)

2.4% market basket increase, -0.8% productivity adjustment

Includes -0.1% outlier adjustment, -0.9% permanent behavioral adjustment, -2.7% temporary behavioral adjustment



Final 2025
Total 30-Day Rate



Final 2026
Total 30-Day Rate

2026 Payment Rate | Proposed Update: -6.4% (\$1.135 billion)

2.4% market basket increase, -0.8% productivity adjustment

Includes -0.5% outlier adjustment, -3.7% permanent behavioral adjustment, -4.6% temporary behavioral adjustment

CY 2026 HH Final Rule: Quality Reporting Starting CY 2026

OASIS Items

Items for Removal:

- Living Situation,
- Food (Two Items: Food May Run Out / Food Didn't Last)
- Utilities

Commenters Expressed:

- Limited support for interoperability measures due to technology and adoption barriers
- A preference for cognitive function measures that focus on maintenance, not improvement.

QRP Measures

Measures for Removal:

Effective Nov 28:

- “Patient/Resident COVID-19 Vaccination is Up to Date” OASIS item (00350) will no longer be collected.
- COVID-19 Vaccine: Percent of Patients/Residents Who Are Up to Date measure is to be removed.

CY 2026 HH Final Rule: Value-Based Purchasing Model

Items for Addition:

Three OASIS-based measures:

- M1830: Improvement in Bathing
- M1810: Improvement in Upper Body Dressing
- M1820: Improvement in Lower Body Dressing

Medicare Spending per Beneficiary for the PAC setting measure

Response to Commenters:

- Once Section GG-based versions of the measures are available, CMS may consider changes in future rulemaking.

CY 2025 Performance Year: Applicable Measure Set and Measure Weights

Measure Category	CY 2025 Performance Year Applicable Measures	Measure Weights	
		Larger-Volume Cohort	Smaller-Volume Cohort
OASIS-based Measures	Improvement in Dyspnea	6.00%	8.57%
	Improvement in Management of Oral Medications	9.00%	12.86%
	Discharge Function Score (DC Function)	20.00%	28.57%
	Sum of OASIS-based Measures	35.00%	50.00%
Claims-based Measures	Home Health within-stay Potentially Preventable Hospitalization (PPH)	26.00%	37.14%
	Discharge to Community – Post Acute Care (DTC-PAC)	9.00%	12.86%
	Sum of Claims-based measures	35.00%	50.00%
HHCAHPS Survey-based Measures	Care of Patients	6.00%	0.00%
	Communication Between Providers and Patients	6.00%	0.00%
	Specific Care Issues	6.00%	0.00%
	Overall Rating of Home Health Care	6.00%	0.00%
	Willingness to Recommend the Agency	6.00%	0.00%
	Sum of HHCAHPS Survey-based measures	30.00 %	0.00%
All	Sum of All Measures	100.00 %	100.00 %

CY 2026 HH Final Rule: Misc. Policies

Modified Reconsideration Policy (QRP)

- Revised reconsideration policy to allow providers to submit a request for reconsideration of an initial determination of noncompliance if they can demonstrate compliance.

OASIS All-Payer Data Submission

- Updates to the regulatory text to account for all-payer data submission of OASIS data.

Face-to-Face Encounter

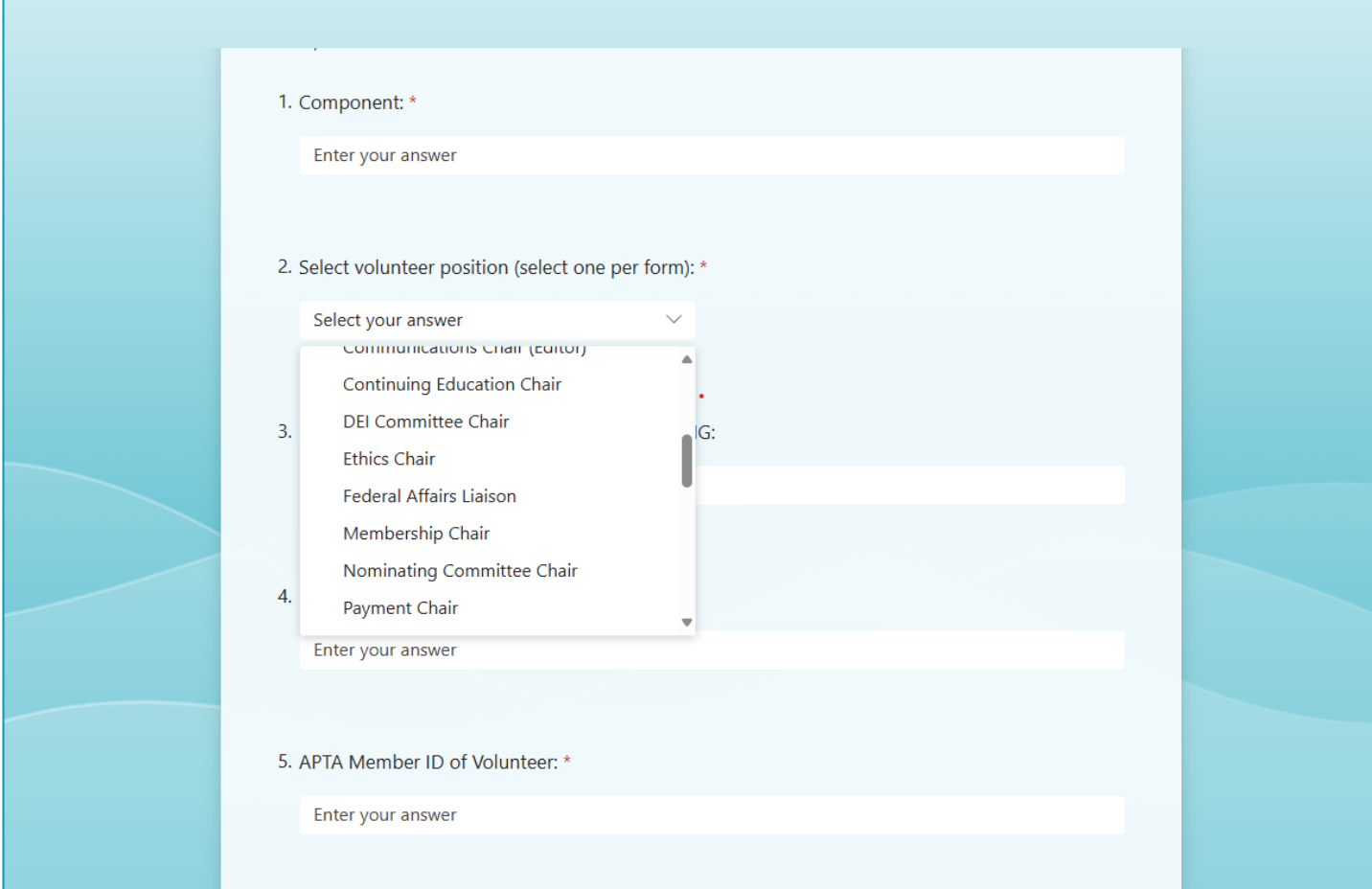
- Aligns regulations with the CARES Act by confirming that the encounter can be performed by eligible practitioners regardless of whether they are the certifying practitioner or whether they cared for the patient in their previous setting.

Grassroots Update



2026 FAL Appointments

- Appointed by component leadership
- Express your interest/intent
- Form must be completed for all FALs
- Centralized process
- **Due Dec. 19**



The image shows a screenshot of a web form for 2026 FAL Appointments. The form is displayed on a light blue background with a white content area. It contains five numbered sections:

- 1. Component: ***
Enter your answer
- 2. Select volunteer position (select one per form): ***
Select your answer
A dropdown menu is open, showing the following options:
 - Communications Chair (editor)
 - Continuing Education Chair
 - DEI Committee Chair
 - Ethics Chair
 - Federal Affairs Liaison
 - Membership Chair
 - Nominating Committee Chair
 - Payment Chair
- 3. IG:**
Enter your answer
- 4. ***
Enter your answer
- 5. APTA Member ID of Volunteer: ***
Enter your answer

2026 FAL Schedule

- Wednesday, January 28
 - Wednesday, February 25
 - Wednesday, March 25
 - Wednesday, April 29
 - Wednesday, May 27
 - Wednesday, June 24
 - Wednesday, July 29
 - Wednesday, August 26
 - Wednesday, September 30
 - Wednesday, October 28
 - Wednesday, November 18**
 - Wednesday, December 16**
- Last Wednesday of the month

APTA Capitol Hill Day 2026

- April 19-21
- Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill
- Walking distance to Capitol Hill



How is 2026 different from 2025?

- Longer (2 days)
 - Breakout sessions
- Priority Key Contacts funded
- FALs are **NOT** funded
 - Free registration

APTA Capitol Hill Day 2026

- Registration opening in early 2026
- Book your hotel after registering

- Registration
 - \$250 APTA members
 - \$100 APTA students/component executives
 - Free for FALs and PTPAC Eagle Club members



Miscellaneous

Grassroots System Test Tomorrow

- New grassroots database system
- Look out tomorrow for an email
- Please test it and let us know if you encounter issues

2025 FAL Survey

- Plan for the future
- Your feedback is important
- Will be sent with minutes tomorrow
- Please complete by Dec. 31

PTPAC Update



Congressional Update



Hill Happenings – Clock Ticking on EPTCs

- ACA EPTCs in jeopardy
 - Expire on January 1st
- GOP Health Care Package
 - Does not address EPTCs
 - Saves \$35.6 billion through 2035, but 100,000 likely to lose insurance
 - Appropriates funding for cost-sharing reduction payments
 - Aimed at low-income customers
 - Lowers premiums by 11%
 - Plans must not cover abortion to be eligible
 - Renders DC and 13 states ineligible
 - Expands association health plans
 - Allows self-employed to purchase, expands by 700,000 people
 - Boosts PBM oversight, reporting



RISE Committee and Student Loans

- Graduate vs. Professional Degrees
 - Graduate
 - \$100k total, \$20,500 annually
 - Professional
 - \$200k total, \$50,000 annually
- APTA Efforts
 - Founding member of Alliance for Healthcare Access and Workforce Development
 - Letter to Ed Dept
 - Meetings with Congress
- Concerns
 - Lack of input, consistency
 - Knock-on effects
 - Congressional intent



Questions & Answers



Thank You

Next call is Wednesday, January 28 at 8:00 p.m. ET

