



Federal Affairs Liaison Monthly Meeting

January 28, 2026

8:00 p.m. ET

Agenda

- FAL Orientation
 - Laura Keivel, Manager, Grassroots and Political Affairs
- Regulatory Update
 - Rachel Miller, Senior Specialist, Health Policy & Payment
- PTPAC Update
 - Michael Matlack, Director of Congressional Affairs
- Congressional Update
 - Justin Elliott, VP, Government Affairs
 - Steve Kline, Senior Specialist, Government Affairs

2026 FAL Orientation



FAL Welcome

- Monthly calls
 - Schedule on Hub
- Roll call by Zoom name
- Minutes
- Key Contact lists
- Communicate with components
- FAL directory
 - Will include FAL email address
 - Email Laura if you *do not* want to be included by Feb. 5
 - Posted on Community

APTA Advocacy Program

- APTA Advocacy Network
 - Answer calls to action on priority legislation
 - Receive information bulletins and newsletters
 - Our constituent strength in numbers
- Key Contacts
 - Build and maintain relationships with members of Congress and their staff
 - Share information and education about physical therapy
 - Targeted outreach and relationship-building activities
 - Quarterly and supplemental trainings
 - Develop district network for outreach
 - **Attend meetings during August and other recesses**

APTA Advocacy Program

- Your Role as FAL
 - **Share advocacy information with your chapter/section**
 - President, Exec. Director, Delegates, Key Contacts, etc.
 - Attend and participate in monthly webinars
 - Assist your Key Contacts and others in scheduling legislator visits
- Recruit and support Key Contacts (chapters only)
 - Focus on key committees, if applicable
- Attend component meetings to share information
- Recruit APTA Advocacy Network members
- Coordinate with component leadership on grassroots network, issues, emerging issues, etc.

APTA Capitol Hill Day: How It Works

Even Years (2026)

- APTA Leadership Congress is in a different city
 - Portland, OR in 2026
- Usually in spring
- Key Contacts in priority districts funded
- Registration fee
 - \$250 APTA members, \$100 students and component staff, free for FALs, PTPAC Eagles
- Longer event

Odd Years (2027)

- APTA Leadership Congress is in Washington DC
 - Larger group
 - Free registration
- Usually in summer
- FALs are funded to attend to lead state delegation
- Shorter event

APTA Capitol Hill Day

- **April 19-21, 2026**



- Pre-event webinar on April 8 at 8:00 p.m. ET
- FALs not funded to attend but receive free registration
- We will book meetings
- Advocacy training and speakers
 - Mandatory
- Capitol Hill meetings on April 21
 - Leave after 5:00 p.m.

FAL Community

- Your one-stop shop for FAL materials and information
- Primary destination of resources for FALs

APTA Home Communities Directory Help/FAQs Browse

Federal Affairs Liaisons (FALs) Council

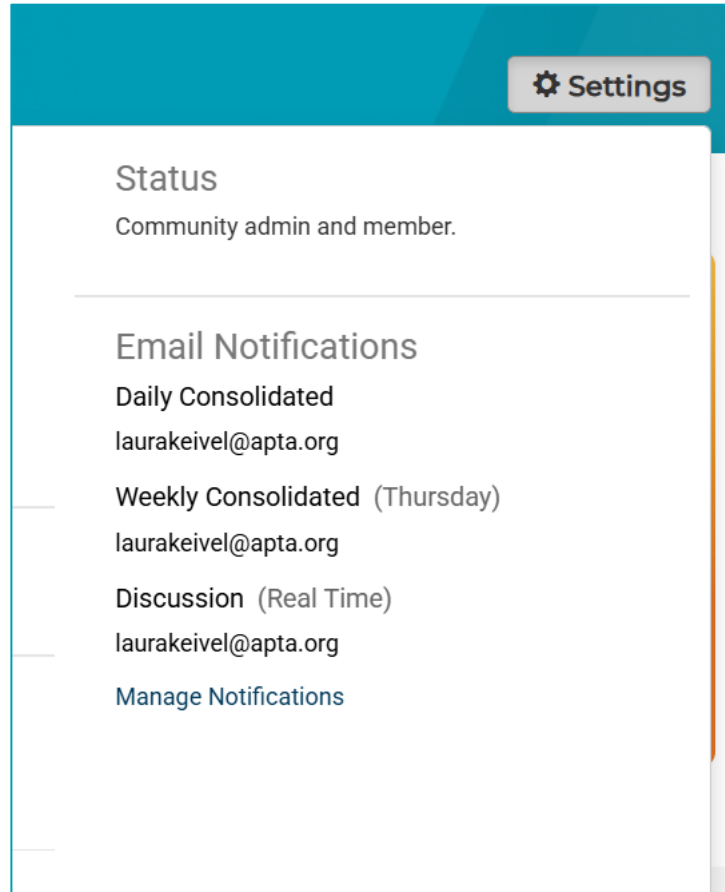
Community Home Discussion 288 Library 181 Events 0 Members 73

Federal Affairs Liaisons representing their component at a national level.

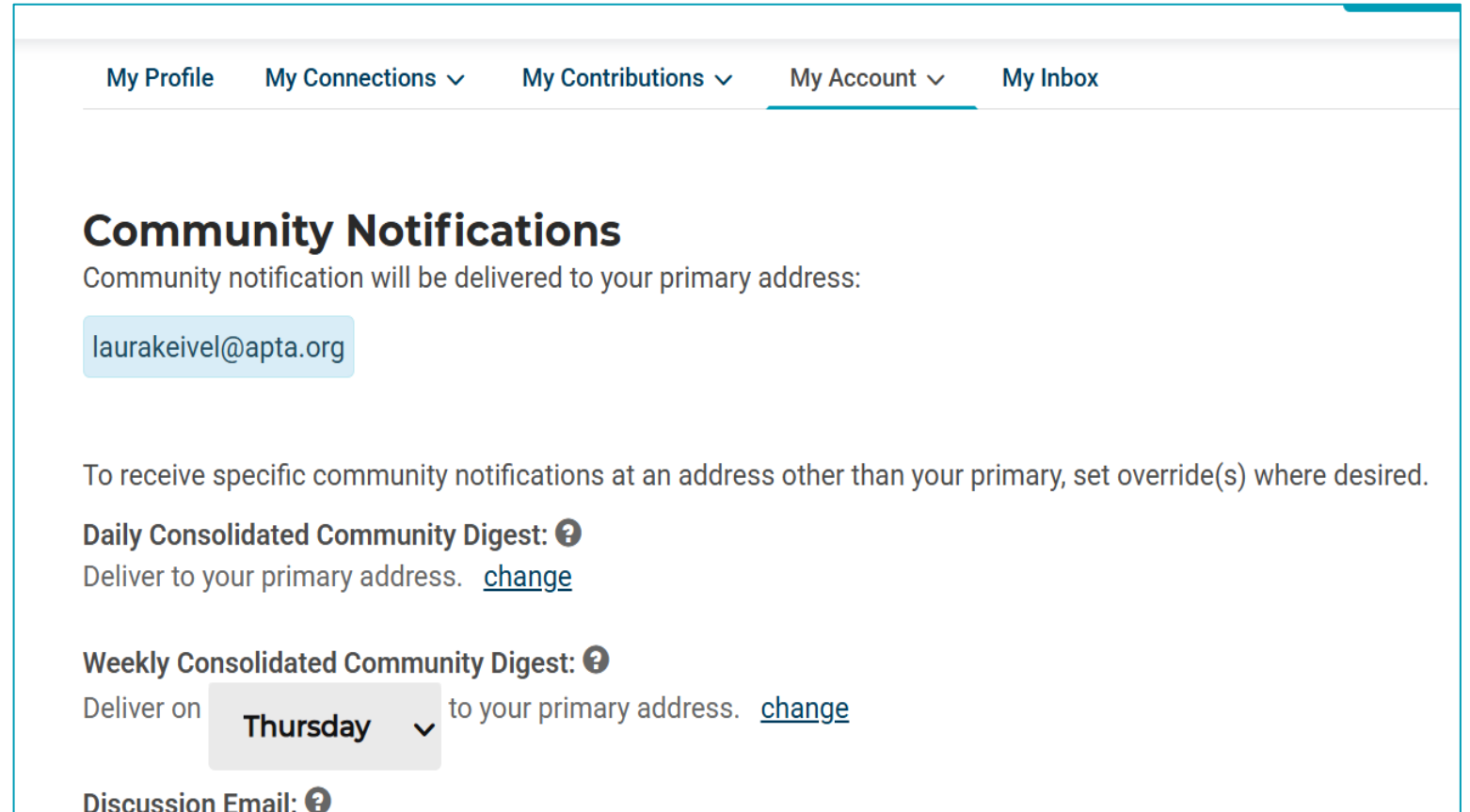
The Federal Affairs Liaisons community is a collaborative space where the liaisons serve as the link between their component and APTA's Government Affairs Department on federal issues.

FAL Community: Notifications are Essential

Make sure your notification settings are correct



The screenshot shows the 'Settings' page with a teal header containing a gear icon and the word 'Settings'. Below the header, the 'Status' section indicates the user is a 'Community admin and member.'. The 'Email Notifications' section lists three notification types: 'Daily Consolidated' (laurakeivel@apta.org), 'Weekly Consolidated (Thursday)' (laurakeivel@apta.org), and 'Discussion (Real Time)' (laurakeivel@apta.org). A 'Manage Notifications' link is located at the bottom of this section.



The screenshot shows the 'Community Notifications' settings page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'My Profile', 'My Connections', 'My Contributions', 'My Account', and 'My Inbox'. The main heading is 'Community Notifications', followed by the text 'Community notification will be delivered to your primary address:'. Below this, the email address 'laurakeivel@apta.org' is displayed in a light blue box. A note states: 'To receive specific community notifications at an address other than your primary, set override(s) where desired.'. Three notification types are listed: 'Daily Consolidated Community Digest' (Deliver to your primary address. [change](#)), 'Weekly Consolidated Community Digest' (Deliver on **Thursday** to your primary address. [change](#)), and 'Discussion Email'.

FAL Community: Notifications are Essential

Automatically set community discussion emails to "No Email" when a community is added to a consolidated digest.

12 Communities Community Name A ▾

Community	Discussion Email	Consolidated Daily Digest	Consolidated Weekly Digest
2025 House Motions	No Email ▾	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
APTA Staff Training	No Email ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Component Leaders	No Email ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Early-Career PTs and PTAs	No Email ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Federal Affairs Liaisons (FALs) Council	Real Time ▾	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

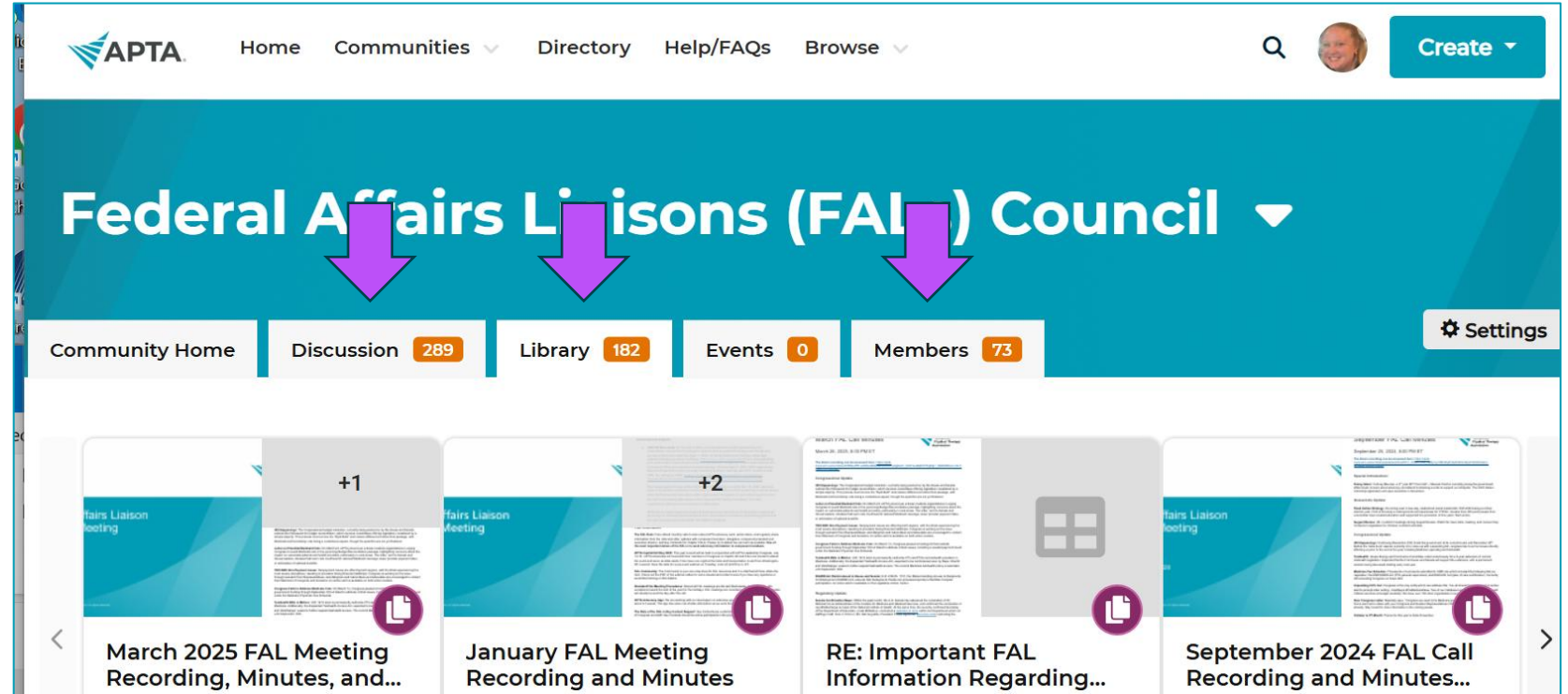
FAL Community

Communications

- Emails will come from APTA Federal Affairs Liaisons (FALs) Council
- Mail@connectedcommunity.org
- Subject will include **APTA Federal Affairs Liaisons (FALs) Council:**
- Add to approved senders list

Resources

- Past meeting materials
- Webinar recordings
- PowerPoint presentations



Other Places for Resources

- Position papers
- <https://www.apta.org/advocacy/position-papers>

Position Papers

Homepage > Advocacy > APTA Position Papers

The American Physical Therapy Association shapes policy issues that impact our profession and the patients and clients we serve.

All bills that were in the 118th Congress must now be

- [APTA Public Policy Priorities 2025-2026](#)
- [Medicare Payment Reform](#)
- [Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction](#)
- [Stopping Addiction and Falls for the Elderly Act, or SAFE Act \(H.R. 1171 / S. 2612\)](#)
- [The Prevent Interruptions In Physical Therapy Act \(H.R. 1517/S. 2225\)](#)
- [States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment Act, or SHARE Act \(H.R. 2332 / S. 1101\)](#)
- [SAFE STEPS for Veterans Act \(H.R. 3183 / S. 668\)](#)
- [Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act \(H.R. 3514 / S. 1816\)](#)
- [The Optimizing Postpartum Outcomes Act \(H.R. 4074\)](#)

Post-FAL Meeting Follow Up

What to Expect

- Recording
- Minutes/summary
- PDF Slides
- Briefing memo
- Agenda
- Reminders, training materials
- Date of next meeting



December FAL Call Minutes

December 17, 2025, 8:00 PM ET

The Zoom recording can be accessed here: <https://apta-org.zoom.us/rec/share/COWAV7vypwL8P8dxBn8nhGuzM6FvX6iNelv5H9-JDNeWhGob89ogelJGeh4yOj.4iuRFHvoIQME78pZ?startTime=1766019665000>

Regulatory Update

Finalized Home Health Payment Rule: CMS finalized a significantly smaller cut to home health payments than originally proposed, reducing payments by 1.3% (\$220 million) for 2026. This was a major improvement from the proposed 6.4% cut and reflects CMS agreement with stakeholder comments.

Behavioral Adjustment Changes: CMS declined to apply behavioral adjustments for calendar years 2023–2025 due to the inability to directly link observed changes to PDGM implementation. As a result, the permanent adjustment was reduced from 3.7% to 0.9%, and the temporary adjustment from 4.6% to 2.7%. CMS indicated it will continue reviewing data through 2026 to assess whether future behavioral adjustments are necessary. While not explicit, CMS implied that additional adjustments may ultimately be unnecessary.

Quality Reporting Program (QRP) and Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program Updates: CMS finalized the removal of four social determinants of health items and one COVID-19 vaccination measure from OASIS starting in 2026. For 2026, CMS finalized three OASIS-based M1800 measures related to bathing and dressing. CMS acknowledged stakeholder preference for Section GG measures and indicated openness to transitioning in the future.

Grassroots Update

APTA Capitol Hill Day 2026: Capitol Hill Day 2026 will be held April 19–21 at the Hilton Washington, D.C. Capitol Hill, within walking distance of Capitol Hill, with registration opening in early 2026. The schedule will be expanded: attendees arrive Sunday with the PTPAC party that evening, participate in advocacy education and issue briefings on Monday, and conduct Hill visits on Tuesday. In even-numbered years, priority Key Contacts receive funding to attend Capitol Hill Day, while FALs receive free registration but not travel funding. Funded Key Contacts will be selected based on the Key Contact list and whether their members of Congress serve on health care committees, which may result in some states having more funded attendees and some having none.

FAL Appointments for 2026: FAL appointments for 2026 must be completed by December 19. Appointments are made by component leadership and must be confirmed through APTA's centralized system. Do not wait until CSM to finalize selections.

2026 FAL Call Schedule and Survey: Next year's FAL meetings will continue on the last Wednesday of each month, except for November and December due to holidays. A brief survey on your experience is available; please submit your feedback by December 31.

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Channel of Communication

Who do I send it to?

- Chapter FALs
 - Leadership
 - Key Contacts
 - Delegates
 - Regular meetings w/chapter

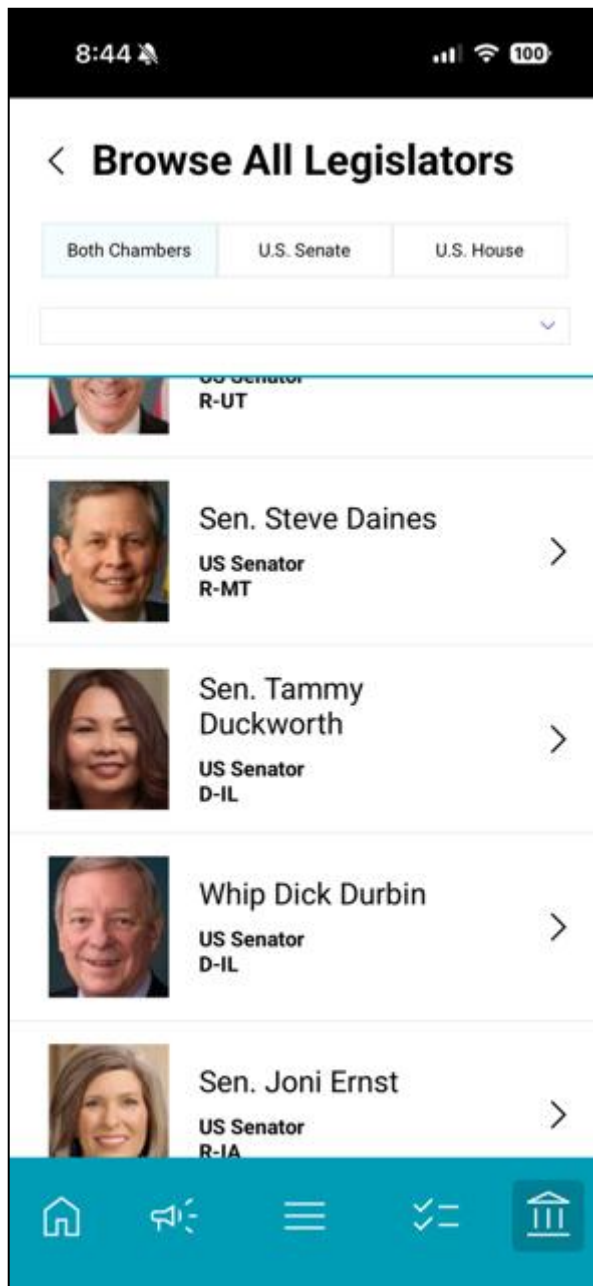
- Section FALs
 - Leadership
 - Delegates
 - Everyone
 - List of those interested in advocacy
 - Regular meetings w/section

What do I send?

- Briefing memo, minutes, slides
- Breaking news, as applicable
- Reminders, training materials

How do I get the information?

- FAL Community
 - Update your email settings
- Outreach from APTA Government Affairs team



APTA Advocacy App

- Free on App Store and Google Play
 - APTA Legislative Action Center
 - APTA Patient Action Center
 - Visit and APTA Student Advocacy Challenge report
 - Congressional directory
 - Donate to PTPAC
 - APTA Advocacy Network sign up
 - Talking points
- See anything amiss? Let us know!
 - Frequent changes from Apple and Google

Key Contacts

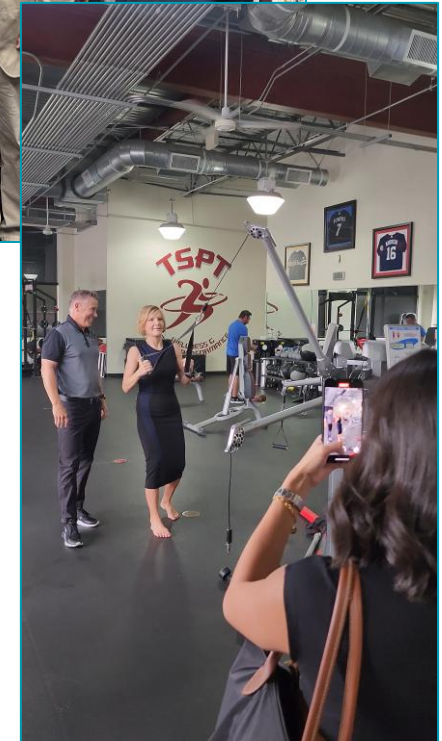
- How does someone become a Key Contact?
 - Through FAL
 - APTA Engage
 - At events
 - advocacy@apta.org
- How can the FAL support Key Contacts?
 - Outreach and engagement
 - Send briefing memo, etc.
 - Tailor your message to your component/interest
- Send updated list by March 20
 - Template letter to confirm participation



Criteria for Key Contact Participation:
Be an APTA member

Key Contact Action Items

- Key Contact list update
 - Introduce yourself/reintroduce yourself
 - Template letter provided
 - Will reach out to you individually
- Fill Key Contact vacancies
 - Can provide list of active APTA Advocacy Network members
 - The program is only as strong as those who participate
- Update is important
 - Database accuracy/correct emails
 - Outreach from APTA
- Send updated list by **March 20**



Regulatory Update



Helpful Resources for New (and Existing) FALs



New to commenting? Learn how to take action!

Regulatory 101

- Check out the Reg Action Center!
 - <https://www.apta.org/advocacy/take-action/regulatory>
- Learn How to Draft a Personalized Comment Letter
 - Watch 5-minute video or review our PDF.
- Attend our 2026 Regulatory, Legislative and Payment Webinars!
 - Quarterly webinars giving you the most up-to-date information on regulatory affairs and payment. Sign up for the whole series at once! (2026 dates will be released soon)

Did you know?

Commonly Used Regulatory Resources:

- **Updated:** Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Calculator
- **NEW:** Medicare Part B Webinar (APTA Learning Center)
- **Incoming:** Remote Therapeutic Monitoring Practice Advisory
- **Updated:** Quality Payment Program
- **NEW:** Medicare Participation: You Have Options
- **Incoming:** Medicare Enrollment FAQ

PTPAC Update



See You in Anaheim!



- Booth #1438
- Near APTA Pavilion in the Exhibit Hall
- PTPAC Party at Golden Road Brewing



Congressional Update



Medicare Payment Reform: APTA's Top Priority



Medicare Payment Advocacy: Legislative Reform to Fix a Broken System

APTA Invited to Inform Key Congressional Caucus on Medicare Payment Reform

APTA urged Congress to repeal MPPR as part of critical reforms to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.

News

Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026

In response to an invitation to submit comments to the Congressional Doctors Caucus, APTA submitted extensive comments outlining the current payment challenges faced by physical therapists under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. APTA's recommendations included:



Medicare Payment Advocacy: Legislative Reform to Fix a Broken System

Five policy solutions APTA is championing that will reform the fee schedule to help provide stability to therapy providers and the patients they serve:

- 1) Provide an annual inflation-based payment update
- 2) Raise the budget neutrality threshold
- 3) Require routine updates to practice expense inputs
- 4) Repeal the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction
- 5) Reform the Quality Payment Program



**Access APTA's
Medicare Payment
Reform Position
Paper**

The image shows the cover of a white paper titled "Medicare Payment Reform" by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). The cover features a blue header with the APTA logo and the title. Below the header, there are three columns of text, each with a blue heading. The first column is titled "Repeal the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction Policy" and discusses the impact of the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) on therapy services. The second column is titled "Reform the Quality Payment Program" and discusses the challenges of the Quality Payment Program (QPP) for physical therapists. The third column is titled "Provide an Annual Payment Update Based on Inflation" and discusses the need for an annual inflation-based payment update. The cover also includes a QR code and the APTA logo in the bottom right corner.

Repeal the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction Policy

The Economic Value of Physical Therapy in the United States

Medicare Payment Reform

Payment Reforms to the Medicare Fee Schedule

The American Physical Therapy Association urges Congress to enact meaningful reforms to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, or MPFS, to improve payment and provide stability for practices. Congress must take action to reform this unsustainable system to ensure that Medicare payments to providers accurately reflect the cost of practice and ensure timely access to care for Medicare beneficiaries.

The following are five policy solutions that will reform the fee schedule to help provide stability to therapy providers and the patients they serve.

Provide an Annual Payment Update Based on Inflation

Step one is for Congress to ensure that Medicare payments to providers in 2025 and beyond are adjusted annually with an inflationary update. The MPFS is the only Medicare payment system lacking an annual inflationary update. Physical therapy practices, many of which are small businesses, face rising costs for office rent, clinical and administrative staff wages, and administrative burden. APTA strongly supports the enactment of an annual payment update under the fee schedule tied to the Medicare Economic Index. This reform would provide an annual payment update, helping to stabilize practices and enable long-term planning, investment in practices, and the delivery of high-quality, patient-centered care.

Increase the Budget Neutrality Trigger

Cuts to the MPFS are triggered by a policy known as budget neutrality, which mandates that any estimated increases of \$20 million or more to the Medicare fee schedule —resulting from upward payment adjustments or the addition of new procedures or services — must be automatically offset by cuts elsewhere. This rigid \$20 million threshold has not been updated since 1992, despite a growing beneficiary population and the increasing number of medical procedures formerly performed in the inpatient setting that are now performed in the outpatient setting and billed to the fee schedule. Increasing the threshold would reduce the triggering of automatic, across-the-board fee schedule cuts, permitting needed spending flexibility to address beneficiary needs without imposing cuts on all providers.

Require Regular Updating of Practice Expenses

Congress should direct the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, or CMS, to update the direct inputs for practice expense relative value units at least every five years. Direct inputs include clinical wages, costs of supplies, and prices of equipment, which increase with inflation. In the past, direct inputs were reviewed by CMS only after many years, resulting in significant redistribution of payments and cuts to some providers.

For more information, visit apta.org



Hill Happenings – New Year, Same Shutdown Risk

- HHS Appropriations
 - Two-year extension of pandemic-era telehealth authorities through December 31st, 2027
 - Boosts NIH funding to \$48.716 billion and removes 15% proposed cap on indirect costs
 - Stabilizes CDC funding at \$9.202 billion
 - Provides \$1.4 billion to strengthen health care workforce, with a focus on rural and other underserved areas
- Shutdown likely
 - DHS funding at issue
 - Neither side willing to bend
 - Dems: Separate DHS from other bills
 - Republicans: Considering all at once only option



Questions & Answers



Thank You

Next call is Wednesday, February 25
8:00 p.m. ET

