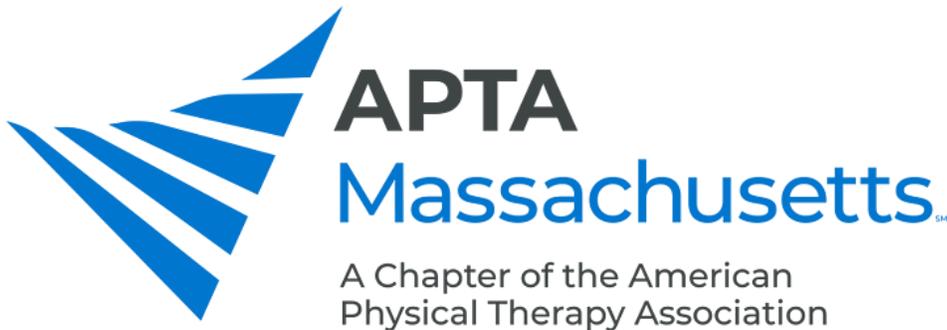


PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

JUNE 2020



Welcome to the June edition of the Public Policy Newsletter of 2020. Our committee continues to deal with all issues related to legislative, payment, reimbursement, insurance and political action committee activities. We look forward to hearing from you: aptaofma.org/advocacy

TELEHEALTH COALITION FORMED IN MASSACHUSETTS

APTAMA to Collaborate with Other Health Care Providers on Telehealth PPC Seeks Volunteers to Join

Under the leadership of Public Policy Committee co chairs, the APTAMA is joining a telehealth coalition with our practitioners for long-term coverage past the end of the pandemic. **The PPC continues to collect patient success stories** to represent across the span of settings, not only in outpatient, but also from skilled nursing, home health, etc.
Email [Kevin Flaherty](mailto:Kevin.Flaherty@aptaofma.org), PPC co chair

APTA Centennial Sponsorships and Giving Prospectus



“Applicants from Massachusetts will be working on a capstone project that focuses on recent health and societal issues that have impacted healthcare practice. The impact of the COVID pandemic and/or impact of Race and ethnicity, and other social determinants of health on how we are able to care for our patients.”
- *APTAMA Centennial Task Force*

APTA Centennial Scholar Program Application Open

How can you shape the future of our profession?

The [APTA Centennial Scholars Program](#) is designed to build a cadre of future association leaders at both the component and national levels. A scholar from MA will be selected based on their ability to complete a year long capstone project. Applications will be available on the website soon and the deadline for completion is **Monday, July 27th, 2020.**



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Member Spotlight

James Casady, MPT

APTA of MA Public Policy Committee Co Chair

James Casady, along with Kevin Flaherty, has been instrumental in mobilizing patients and members to advocate for physical therapy's ability to provide telehealth for our patients. James is an avid runner and President of Platinum PT with locations in Ashland, Milford, and Hopkinton.



Political Spotlight

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley



Photo: [Wiki](#)

Following calls from Rep. Pressley, CDC Releases Initial Racial and Demographic Data on COVID-19, full story [here](#)

“There is nothing healthy about racism. It’s a disease of the heart and mind that has infected not just people but customs, systems, and laws. There is no vaccine. We must be the cure.”

— APTA President Sharon Dunn, PT, PhD,
Board-Certified Orthopaedic Clinical Specialist



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A bipartisan bill in the House would allow CMS to avoid damaging cuts in 2021 and establish permanent telehealth for therapy providers. [The Outpatient Therapy Modernization and Stabilization Act](#) (H.R. 7154) introduced by Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA) and Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL) aims to address the proposed Medicare fee schedule cuts; provides a small payment boost to Medicare; provides a permanent telehealth solution for PT, OT, and SLP; and addresses administrative burden by clarifying that either a physician referral or a certified plan of care, but not both, is required for Medicare-covered outpatient therapy services.

The bill includes the following:

- **2021 MPES E/M code adjustment:** This legislation prevents steep cuts to Medicare in 2021.
- **Provides a Small Boost Payment Under MPFS:** This language would provide a small boost through 2023 to help health care providers recover from the pandemic.
- **Permanent Policy Solution on Telehealth:** The legislation amends federal statute to permanently allow PTs and therapy providers that bill on an institutional claim form to bill for services furnished via telehealth to Medicare beneficiaries. Further information on special waiver provisions can be found [here](#).
- **Addressing Admin Burden:** Reduces administrative burden by clarifying that either a physician referral or a certified plan of care, but not both, is required for Medicare-covered outpatient therapy services.