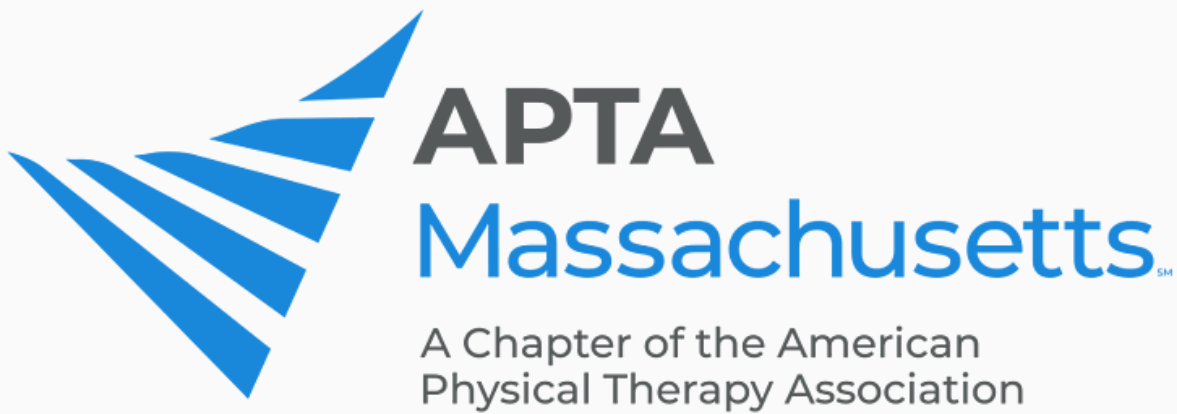


# *MEDICARE 2021 FEE SCHEDULE*

On August 3, CMS published the proposed 2021 physician fee schedule



## *Fighting the 9% Cut*

APTA SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE IS [HERE](#).

APTA SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2021 QUALITY PAYMENT PROGRAM [HERE](#).

THERAPY ASSOCIATIONS JOINT STATEMENT ON FEE SCHEDULE IS [HERE](#).

FEE SCHEDULE COALITION PRESS RELEASE IS [HERE](#).

APTA STAFF HAS RECORDED A [35-MINUTE PRESENTATION](#) ABOUT THE PROPOSED 2021 CMS PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE RULE

APTA [RESOURCE ADVOCACY CENTER](#) WITH REGULATORY & LEGISLATIVE TEMPLATES

93 bipartisan House lawmakers on Tuesday (Aug. 11) asked House leadership from both parties to allow CMS in 2021 and 2022 to raise pay for some evaluation and management codes, which tends to benefit primary care providers, without cutting other providers' pay to offset those costs. The lawmakers say that House leadership should include in "any upcoming and relevant legislation" a policy to waive the budget neutrality requirement for the physician fee schedule in 2021 and 2022. Tuesday's letter is not the first time House lawmakers have pushed leadership to fix this issue. In late May a group of 46 law-makers also asked leadership to deal with the issue citing the concerns of its impact on PT, OT and SLP. Tuesday's letter also asks that House leadership have CMS report to Congress on the overarching effects of the public health emergency, specifically on how the pandemic has affected access to care in underserved areas and the impact of the E/M pay cuts if budget neutrality isn't waived.

*Welcome to the Fall 2020 edition of the Public Policy Newsletter:*

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/PTADVOCACY](https://aptaofma.org/ptadvocacy)

## *PT Regulations and Legislative Activity in Massachusetts*

### UPDATES FROM APTAMA PRESIDENT ERIC FOLMAR'S MOST RECENT [BLOG POST](#)

**PT, OT, & AT regulations** have been revisited and debated for the better part of the last 20 years. The language has been reviewed, changed, and discussed over and over. Finally, after many iterations, the Board of Allied Health voted to approve the new regulations for both PT and OT. AT regulations are being discussed further. This was a huge step forward, though we do recognize that the language in these documents should continue to be examined and refined to meet the needs of contemporary practice. New regulations can be found [here](#).

**MassHealth** announced that it will extend its current telehealth policies at least through December 31, 2020. This extended policy is to help ensure that MassHealth members retain access to covered services, promote social distancing, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 both before and after the expiration of that state of emergency.

#### **Advocacy: Making State Telehealth Policies Permanent**

If you have an opportunity to reach out to your [State Representatives](#), please encourage them to support making the telehealth policies that have been in place during the public health emergency permanent. If you are looking for a quick set of talking points to use with them that outline the tMED Coalition's priority issues, please refer to this [letter](#) that ATPAMA originally sent to the Governor, Speaker and Senate President.

#### **Have your voice heard in the legislature**

MA PT Political Action Committee needs vital donations from members to continue to have the voice of our patients and profession heard. This time of year is pivotal for legislators, with elections in process. Donate [here](#) now and follow [@MAPTPAC](#) on social media.

## Legislative Spotlight: Massachusetts Reps. Signed on to Final Congressional Letter on Proposed Medicare Cuts



#### **Rep. William Keating**

Special thanks to APTA Key Contact Nancy Roberge, PT, DPT, for building relationships with legislators. Dr. Roberge also participated in a meeting with staff from Senator Elizabeth Warren's office during August recess.



#### **Rep. Stephen Lynch**

Special thanks to APTA Key Contact Helena Manning-Shannon, PT, GCS for advocating directly.

**Interested in becoming a Key Contact?** Advocate for our patients. Taylor Chasey, PT, DPT, along with APTA Federal Affairs Liaison, Maegen Brady, PT, DPT met with staff from Senator Ed Markey's office this August recess. Contact [maebrady@gmail.com](mailto:maebrady@gmail.com)



#### **Member Spotlight:**

**Alyssa Williamson PT, DPT,  
ATC, SCS, CSCS**

Alyssa is both a Physical Therapist at Addison Gilbert and Head Athletic Trainer at Gloucester High School and heads the Public Policy Committee Athletic Training Legislation work group.