



APTA FAL Call Briefing Memo

August 2019

UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT: APTA along with AOTA and ASHA met with numerous state Insurance Commissioners during the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) summer meeting to share our concerns with the Anthem/AIM utilization management program in the 13 states. Thanks to APTA's advocacy, the roll out of this program set for July 1 has been postponed.

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS: APTA met with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) staff to discuss the need for clarity regarding how physical therapy and other nonphysician electronic health record (EHR) vendors may satisfy the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) certification criteria for purposes of participation in the Quality Payment Program – both the Promoting Interoperability category of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs).

COMMENT LETTERS: APTA submitted comments on the CMS Request for Information on Ideas to Reduce Administrative Burden in Medicare and Medicaid programs. APTA also submitted comments to the Department of Veterans Affairs responding to their request for comments on their new Center for Innovation for Care and Payment.

RURAL HEALTH: The House Ways and Means Committee announced the creation of the bipartisan Rural and Underserved Communities Health Task Force, led by Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL), Terri Sewell (D-AL), Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), and Jodey Arrington (R-TX). The task force will bring together members and experts to discuss the challenges of delivering care in rural and underserved areas, and identify bipartisan policies to improve outcomes and care. APTA staff are meeting with these Congressional offices and will be submitting names of members for consideration to present or participate in future task force meetings.

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY: The *Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act of 2019* passed the House Energy & Commerce Committee, a vote by the full House could happen this fall. The legislation seeks to provide \$5 million per year in scholarships and stipends aimed at increasing the number of students from underrepresented populations in physical therapy and other allied health education programs.

IDEA: Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) and Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) have introduced the *Funding Early Childhood is the Right IDEA Act* (H.R. 4107). This bill would restore full funding for education and services for the two early childhood state grant programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

ENGAGEMENT:

- APTA conducted a joint webinar with CMS, AOTA, and ASHA on the Home Health Patient-Driven Groupings Model. To view the recording/slides click [HERE](#).
- APTA Insurers Forum: Friday, September 13 at APTA Headquarters, Mary MacMillan Conference Center.
- APTA State Policy & Payment Forum: Saturday, September 14 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA.