



APTA FAL Call Briefing Memo

March 2020

NCCI PTP Edits: The problematic edits that went into effect on January 1st with the physical therapy evaluation codes have been reversed by CMS and new edit tables were issued. CMS has advised the MACs to update their files. Providers should check with their MAC to see if the claims that were denied as a result of these edits are going to be automatically reprocessed or if they need to be resubmitted or appealed. Commercial payers may not realize the files have been updated. Below is some text you could use in an email to communicate with commercial payers regarding these edit changes:

The NCCI PTP Coding Edits

page <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/NCCI-Coding-Edits> lists a Page Last Modified: 02/03/2020 06:39 PM at the bottom of the page. The Hospital and Practitioner PTP Edits tables are now a revision 1 of the v26.0 tables Effective January 1, 2020. The updated tables no longer include the problematic edits listed for Column 1 codes 97150 and 97530 with column 2 codes 97161, 97162, 97163, 97165, 97166, and 97167.

POST ACUTE CARE: The post acute survey distributed by Home Health Section, AGPT, and HPA the Catalyst has closed. Approximately 1700 individuals participated in the survey, both non-members and members. The Components and APTA staff are in the process of reviewing and analyzing the results. We expect to share this information with PPAC in the near future.

APTA COMMENT & COALITION LETTERS: The following is a summary of the APTA comment and coalition letters submitted from February 10 to March 15

- APTA submitted comments responding to the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT 2020-2025 Federal Health IT strategic plan, which incorporated feedback from HPA's Tech SIG.
- APTA submitted comments to CMS on Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters (ACA/Exchanges) proposed rule.
- APTA submitted comments to CMS regarding issues with certified electronic health record technology for consideration as CMS develops 2021 Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule.
- APTA submitted comments to HHS ONC responding to its draft Health IT 2020-2025 strategic plan.
- The Fee Schedule Coalition sent a letter to CMS with recommendations regarding 2021 PFS reimbursement reductions (13 associations signed on). In addition APTA, PPS, APTQI submitted comments to CMS with recommendations regarding 2021 PFS reimbursement reductions.
- APTA joined a sign-on letter to Congressional leaders in support of the *Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020* (H.R. 4334) to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA).
- APTA joined a sign-on letter to House Appropriators in support of \$50 million in funding shared evenly between the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.
- APTA signed onto the Observation Stays Coalition letter to the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health in support of the bipartisan legislation *Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act* (H.R. 1682/S. 753) that would allow for the time patients spend in the hospital under "observation status" to count toward the requisite three-day hospital stay for coverage of skilled nursing care.