



Legislative Action Alert

American Physical Therapy Association

30 Days for Congressional Action on Extending the Therapy Cap Exceptions Process and avoiding a 10.6% cut in Payments!

Congress returns today following the Memorial Day district work period for 4 weeks of legislative business. It is critical that Congress pass legislation in this 4 week period to extend the therapy cap exceptions process and to avoid the scheduled 10.6% cut in provider payments under the Medicare physician fee schedule.

Background - Without Congressional action, the therapy cap will return on July 1, 2008 as an \$1810 per beneficiary per year cap. This cap is a shared cap for physical therapy and speech language pathology services and exempts the hospital outpatient department. In 2008, this cap will be for services delivered on July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Congress will also need to pass legislation to override regulations that will implement a 10.6% cut to payments under the Medicare physician fee schedule. Physical therapists in private practice transitioned to the fee schedule in 1992 and all other outpatient physical therapy setting began billing the fee schedule in 1997.

Timing - It is projected that the Senate will move legislation the week of June 9th. This is a tentative date and as details become available we will communicate these details as information bulletins to the [PTeam](#). After the Senate passes legislation, it will be sent to the House of Representatives for consideration and then the President. The bill will only address expiring provisions under Medicare that occur on July 1, 2008 such as the therapy cap exceptions process, the fee schedule update, and other rural payment updates.

Message - CONGRESS NEEDS TO PASS LEGISLATION BY JUNE 30, 2008 TO EXTEND THE THERAPY CAP EXCEPTIONS PROCESS AND AVOID THE 10.6% CUT IN PROVIDER PAYMENTS UNDER THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE.

What You Can Do

- **Call your Members of Congress TODAY.** To reach your Member of Congress, contact the Capitol switchboard at 202/224-3121. Ask the operator to direct you to your Member of Congress. If you do not know your Members of Congress, you can find out by utilizing the [Legislative Action Center](#).
- **Send an email, fax or letter to your Members of Congress TODAY.** For sample letters and easy access to contacting your Members of Congress by electronic means or download and print letters, utilize APTA's [Legislative Action Center](#).
- **Request your patients to contact Congress** on this issue through APTA's [Patient Action Center](#). This site is designed to educate patients on the issue and to provide easy access to form emails and letters for them to contact Congress.

Send to A Colleague - Forward this action alert to a colleague and have them sign up for [PTeam](#). PTeam will be the main source of information for legislative updates and breaking news on the effort to pass legislation to extend the therapy cap exceptions process and avoid the 10.6% cut.

Thanks for your help in getting the message through to Congress!