



# Message from the Practice Committee July Part 1

The Practice Committee increases Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy involvement with the Departments of Government Affairs and Reimbursement at APTA. Participates in activities, which promote and modify the practice of neurologic physical therapy. Serves as a resource to accrediting agencies to establish guidelines to neurologic practice.

Visit the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy website

Hello Academy Member!

The ANPT Practice Committee is dedicating Part 1 of the July Message to updates and resources related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, as well as COVID-19 resources and Telehealth updates. We hope these resources assist you in your practice and career growth. Part 2 of the Message from the Practice Committee, which will come out in a week, will include resources from the SIGs and ANPT work groups.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: What can we do in neurologic rehabilitation?

**Words from our ANPT President:** Following the message from ANPT President, Patty Scheets, PT, DPT, NCS in the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Action Potential, the Practice Committee hopes everyone is considering her call to action and “pledging, as individual and as a collective, to give voice to those who are persecuted or oppressed and work together for a just society for all.” With neurologic physical therapists spread across the country and serving diverse communities, the resources below can help therapists consider diversity, equity, and inclusion within the context of their own daily practice.

- **Video on Inclusion:** Consider watching and sharing this powerful video on understanding the “I” in Inclusion: [Inclusion Starts with I](#)
- **Know Your Implicit Biases:** Take a self-assessment of implicit biases available online through Harvard University. Follow this [link](#). Therapists might use this information for self-reflection on how to be more aware of implicit biases impacting their practice, or rehabilitation teams might consider a team building activity by using the assessment as a spring board to a conversation about diversity in the practice setting.
- **Watch this PT Panel on “Fostering Allyship in DEI”**, hosted by 4 recent PT graduates who talk about their experiences as a PT minority

student. [Fostering Allyship in DE](#)

- Take a look at the strategic steps that the APTA has taken to support diversity, equity, and inclusion: [APTA Strategic Plan](#)

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## COVID-19 Update

A recent ANPT Town Hall meeting discussed the impact of the pandemic on neuro therapists. Academy leaders polled attendees revealing over half of the neurologic therapists participating in the meeting had treated patients with COVID-19. Additionally, the vast majority had their work life change and are still experiencing changes. Furthermore, the APTA surveyed 6,500 PTs and PTAs across the country to determine the impact of COVID 19 on our profession. 44% of PTs and 54% of PTAs experienced decreased income during this health crises. See [this link](#) for details from the APTA survey. Neuro therapists should consider these additional important COVID related updates:

- **PPE Recommendations:** This article sponsored by multiple APTA Academies discusses the need for physical therapists to consider mobility and exercise as a potentially aerosol-generating procedure. Read the article here: [PPE Recommendations](#)
- **COVID-19 Core Set of Outcome Measures:** A consensus statement from the APTA Academies and Sections identified the top 5 outcome measures to utilize with this population. Check them out here: [COVID-19 Outcome Measures](#). Here is another link to an article published in the JMIR Public Health and Surveillance regarding post-acute rehab for survivor of COVID-19: [Considerations for Postacute Rehabilitation for survivors of COVID-19](#)
- **PTAs:** During the COVID-19 declared emergency, CMS will allow Medicare reimbursement for therapist assistants who provide “maintenance therapy services” in the outpatient setting. Also regarding PTA Supervision: CMS has stated that "direct supervision" includes real-time interactive audio and visual communications "when use of such technology is indicated to reduce exposure risks for the beneficiary or health care provider". Here is a link to the CMS website covering waivers due to the pandemic: [CMS Waivers](#)
- **Home Health:** During the COVID declared emergency, CMS will allow PTs to also perform initial and comprehensive assessments for home health patients when both nursing and therapy are ordered. See this link for more CMS regulatory waivers pertaining to Home Health: [Home Health](#)
- **Outpatient Facilities:** Here is a very informative synopsis from the APTA and other national agencies of how to keep your outpatient clinic safe during this pandemic: [Outpatient Clinic Precautions](#)

Continue to check the [ANPT webpage](#) and the [APTA websites](#) for additional Coronavirus updates. Be safe!

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## Telehealth Updates

- For the latest Telehealth Billing and coding Considerations, see this

## [APTA link.](#)

- CMS will now allow PT, OT, and SLP to provide telehealth therapy. CMS allows telehealth through audio/visual platforms or audio alone (telephone) if audio/visual is not available by the patient. CMS stated that PTAs and OTAs also can furnish telehealth services under the supervision of the PT or OT. CMS will allow hospital-based outpatient departments to furnish remote care to registered hospital outpatients if their location has been added as a temporary expansion location and use a 95 modifier. Review this [link](#).
- **Home Health:** CMS proposed rule for 2021 indicates telehealth services may continue to be covered as long as it's "related to the skilled services being furnished, is outlined on the plan of care, and is tied to a specific goal indicating how such use would facilitate treatment outcomes". See the [CSM Fact Sheet](#) and [APTA update](#) for additional details.
- **Commercial Insurance:** Review the [Commercial Payers and Telehealth](#) page for recent updates on telehealth coverage by commercial payers. The APTA has submitted letters to the national payers recommending the permanent adoption of telehealth policies
- The APTA is continuing to advocate for permanent telehealth coverage. Review recent advocacy actions taken by the APTA [here!](#)

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## Medicare Cuts

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, we urgently need your help to contact your members of Congress. It is imperative that we ask for the inclusion of a legislative proposal aimed to prevent deep cuts to Medicare providers slated to take effect on January 1, 2021. **With the current instability in the health care system, now is not the time to reduce payment to providers under the Medicare program.** Physical Therapy is slated for an 8% cut, which is unsustainable. Please ask your patients, family and friends to visit the [Patient Action Center](#) to send letters from consumers. Please visit APTA's Legislative Action Center to have your voice heard: [Therapist Advocacy Letters](#).

In closing, the Practice Committee welcomes our new Director of Practice: Wendy Romney, PT, DPT, PhD, NCS. We also welcome two new members to the Practice Committee: Karen Lambert, PT, DPT, NCS and Stacey Lane, PT, DPT, NCS. Many thanks to our outgoing members, Anna De Joya and Leslie Wolf, and outgoing Director of Practice, Beth Crowner, for their many years of service and dedication.

We hope you have found these resources useful. The ANPT Practice Committee welcomes your feedback and questions. Please send all inquiries to Heather Knight at [info@neuropt.org](mailto:info@neuropt.org)

## The Practice Committee

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STAY CONNECTED

