



## Useful Information from the Practice Committee

### Advocacy Efforts Pay Off!

**What was the issue:** CMS proposed a Home Health Prospective Payment System rule which included a component that would have implemented the Home Health Grouping Model (HHGM) effective January 1, 2018.<sup>1</sup> The proposed change was written for home health settings; however, it had the potential to impact physical therapy services in other settings. For example, if an individual is unable to receive home health services, discharge recommendations from acute care settings may increase to skilled nursing facilities (SNF). This ultimately would increase burden on SNFs leading to decreased quality of patient care and decreased patient satisfaction.

HHGM proposed changes	Potential impact
shift home health payments from a 60-day to a 30-day episode of care, without addressing accountability of providers to provide appropriate amount of therapy services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premature discharge of patients due to the first 30 days being more profitable than continuing to treat beyond the 30-day episode of care</li> <li>• Use clinical characteristics and patient information to place patients in payment categories</li> </ul>
Implement HHGM in non-budget neutral manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment reduction of \$950 million in calendar year 2019</li> <li>• Impact viability of home health agencies, especially in areas that serve rural and small cities</li> <li>• Access to home health services would decline</li> </ul>

**Advocacy Outcome:** The APTA and the Home Health Section of the APTA, in collaboration with other organizations, participated in an advocacy effort against the HHGM. CMS final report was received on November 1, 2017 which confirmed the HHGM will not go into effect in 2018. While discussions around alternative payment models will continue to occur, and it is valuable for members to understand the potential impact of a

payment model like the HHGM to be able to successfully participate in these discussions, this successful advocacy effort should be celebrated. Thank you to everyone that contributed!

### **Are you prepared to participate in future advocacy efforts?**

Click the link below or download the free PT Action App from your Apple or Google app store to quickly read about current advocacy efforts and to send a letter directly to your state representative using the Federal Action Center.

**APTA Link:** <http://www.apta.org/TakeAction/>

**APTA Action App:** Download on your Apple or Google Device and click on the Federal Action Center

The ANPT has an Advocacy and Consumer Affairs Committee that can also serve as a resource. The committee can be reached via the Chair, Gina Musolino at [gmusolino@health.usf.edu](mailto:gmusolino@health.usf.edu)

<sup>1</sup><https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2017-Fact-Sheet-items/2017-07-25.html>. accessed October 6, 2017.

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### **Embracing Value Based Care**

As the healthcare environment is moving from a volume-based to a value- or outcomes-based care delivery system, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants must embrace and be accountable for best practice standards which provide high-quality services that promote value to the patient served, providers and payers. The movement to value-based care delivery challenges all physical therapists and physical therapist assistants with providing the services necessary to achieve and sustain meaningful outcomes for patients and families at the lowest cost point. Physical therapy services must take this opportunity to show our value towards supporting patients to reach optimal wellness, functional performance, chronic disease management, and risk management.

Key concepts to consider are:

- Consistently collect and report on standardized outcomes as a collaborative team
- Enhance and integrate care within and across settings throughout the continuum of care
- Place patients and/or families at the point of control via a patient driven approach
- Engage clients in care at the appropriate intensity level (*Choose wisely campaign: <http://integrity.apta.org/ChoosingWisely/>*)
- Embrace alternative payment model and role in reducing cost
- Identify risk and areas to improve overall health of the population and decrease prevalence of chronic conditions
- Engage in dialogue with stakeholders (i.e. clients, healthcare providers, policy makers, third party payers) on PT's role in value based care

For additional information and resources on payment reform, please refer to APTA's website. <http://www.apta.org/PaymentReform/>

Please send your questions or concerns to: [katie.flores@ventura.org](mailto:katie.flores@ventura.org)

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