

October 29, 2020



Message from the Practice Committee

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.

Practice Resources on the ANPT Webpage

Hello Academy Members! **Happy Physical Therapy Month!** The ANPT Practice Committee is dedicating Part 1 of the October Message to updates and resources focused on neurological impairment and COVID-19, payment and coding updates, and APTA resources. We hope these resources assist you in your practice and professional growth. Part 2 of the Message from the Practice Committee, which will come out in a week, will include resources from the SIGs and other ANPT work groups.

COVID-19 and Neurological Impairment

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, more evidence of neurological impairment caused by the virus are uncovered. Here are three articles highlighting neurological manifestations.

- [A systematic review on neurological symptoms and complications of COVID-19](#)
- [Lifting the mask on neurological manifestations of COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Induced Vestibular Neuritis](#)
- The APTA Learning Center continues to offer free webinars regarding evaluation and treatment for patients with COVID-19 including Acute Care PT, Home Health, and telehealth. For access to these free webinars, with CEU hours, [check out this link](#).

Telehealth Updates

Study: Patients Give Telehealth Rave Reviews

A survey of patients post-telehealth sessions reveals high levels of satisfaction across age groups and conditions. More information is [here!](#)

Permanent telehealth coverage is needed

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 made it clear- the use of telehealth by PTs and PTAs is not only appropriate, but effective in delivering effective care and expanding patient access to that care. Telehealth in physical therapy shouldn't be an emergency-only option. Don't let telehealth services end after the pandemic is over! Find out how to advocate to CMS and private insurers to continue telehealth for physical therapists after the pandemic at this link: [Telehealth Advocacy and More](#)

Proposed Medicare Cuts

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued a proposed rule that would reduce the reimbursement (approximately 9% overall) for Medicare Part B Rehab Services paid through the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The APTA has signed a letter with 47 other provider groups to make recommendations to stop or mitigate the cuts. More than 100,000 letters of concern were sent to Congress by APTA members. An expanded update on all APTA advocacy efforts and the current status of the initiative can be [found here](#). The key question at the end is what's next, and the message is to "Keep up the pressure and get others to do the same".

This [Proposed Cuts](#) link will inform you on the potentially devastating impact of these proposed cuts and assist you in engaging in advocacy.

Coding Updates

New CPT Code for Covid-19 Costs

Did you incur additional expenses in your efforts to provide safe in-person visits during the coronavirus pandemic? There's a CPT code for that! Recently, the American Medical Association published an update to the [Current Procedural Terminology \(CPT®\)](#) code set that includes a code for reporting expenses incurred as a result of the necessary public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The code — 99072 — is a new practice expense code that describes the additional supplies and clinical staff time required to stop the spread of the coronavirus while still providing safe in-person visits. For more information about this new CPT, check out [this link](#).

ICD 10 Updates including Diseases of the Nervous System

CMS released information that proposed more than 550 ICD changes. Proposed changes include 490 code additions, 47 revisions, and 58 deleted codes that went into effect October 1, 2020. View the [CMS link](#) for a comprehensive list of changes for 2021.

Chapter 6 of the update addresses Diseases of the Nervous System (G00-G99): The updates provide expansion and specificity with congenital myopathies, cerebrospinal fluid leaks, and intracranial hypotension. For details [see this link](#).

Neurologic PT in the Emergency Room or on Observation Status - NCCI Edits Are Back Again

Beginning Oct 1, 2020, previously deleted National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Edits must again be used for Medicare Part B. The current billing edits indicated that physical therapy evaluations codes (97161-97164) cannot be billed on the same day of service as emergency department E/M services (CPT 99281-99285). These codes have a status indicator of "0" meaning they will not be reimbursed if billed on the same day even though they are mutually exclusive services delivered by different healthcare providers. With physical therapists more commonly providing evaluations in the emergency department or when the patient is under observation status in the hospital for dizziness, fall risk management, and/or vestibular related issues, this coding initiative should be of particular interest for neurologic PT's.

As this is a barrier to patients receiving PT services at the appropriate level of care, therapists are urged to act. APTA is advocating to CSM and Capital Bridge LLC (NCCI contractor), but individual therapists can reach out to Kara Gainer at karagainer@apta.org from the APTA for PT and non-PT email templates. You can also contact CMS or Capitol Bridge

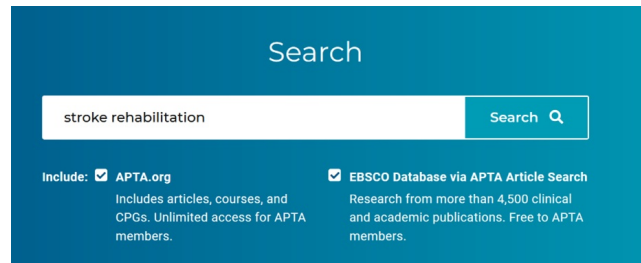
directly: NCCIMailbox@capitolbridgellc.com NCCIPTPMUE@cms.hhs.gov

See [this link](#) for detailed background on the initiative and an updated list of NCCI edits that have been reinstated.

APTA Website Navigation

The previous **PTNow** resources are now in a different location and easy to search on

the apta.org website! You can search for evidenced based neurologic rehabilitation resources that have been published by the APTA and resources published in EBSCO Database at the same time.



A [Rehabilitation Reference Center](#) includes point-of-care resources such as exercise images, patient education sheets, and quick access to medication references.

The **APTA Patient Care** section has patient care resources to help you in your daily practice — including content and tools previously housed at PTNow. Search for [clinical practice guidelines, tests and measures](#), or other [evidence-based practice resources](#). APTA members also have access to the [Guide to Physical Therapist Practice](#). Here is the link: [APTA Patient Care](#).

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

The Practice Committee

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