

Happy New Year APTA Tennessee Members!



APTA TN - January 2021 President Update

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Governor's Executive Order #73 extends the date to remove the in person and live continuing education requirements for health care professionals to February 27, 2021.**
- **APTA Tennessee Day on the Hill - goes virtual, watch the calendar on the APTA TN website for more details.**
- **APTA TN Spring meeting stays virtual - SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 26TH & 27TH**
- **TRI-STATE Fall meeting with Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas to be held October 1, 2 & 3, at the Memphis Hilton!**



MAKE A NOTE!

MEDICARE CHANGES SUMMARY

Changes to ABN (Advance Beneficiary Notice)

Medicare has made minor changes to the ABN form for services that are paid by Medicare patients out of pocket. The updated form is available currently on the Results Connect site, under “Forms -> OPS Forms -> “ABN Medicare Spanish” and “Medicare ABN.”

Student Documentation in the Medical Record

CMS has clarified that therapy students can document in the medical record so long as it is reviewed and verified (signed and dated) by the billing therapist. CMS is also clarifying that the broad policy principle that allows billing clinicians to review and verify documentation added to the medical record for their services by other members of the medical team also applies to therapists.

Maintenance Therapy Provided by PTA's

CMS now grants a PT the discretion to delegate the performance of maintenance therapy services, as clinically appropriate to a physical therapist assistant (PTA). This will align CMS' Part B policy with that paid under Part A in skilled nursing facilities and the home health benefit where maintenance therapy services may be performed by a PT/OT or a PTA/OTA.

Supervision Requirements of a PTA

Historically, Medicare required PTs to provide “direct supervision” of PTAs, which meant a PT had to be in the same building as the PTA while the services were performed. Most state practice acts have much less restrictive supervision requirements. CMS now allows “direct supervision” to be provided using real-time, interactive audio and video technology (excluding telephone that does not also include video) through the later of the end of 2021. **This requirement could be met by the supervising PT being immediately available to engage via audio/video technology (excluding audio-only), and would not require real-time presence or observation of the service via interactive audio and video technology throughout the performance of the procedure.** ONE CAVEAT: This is only allowed if allowed by your state practice act. If your state practice act requires direct supervision of

the physical therapist assistant (i.e. onsite) by the physical therapist and this requirement has not been eased, then you must adhere to the policy that is most restrictive or stringent.

Physical Therapy Delivered via Telehealth

PT and OT will remain *temporarily* on the Medicare telehealth list through the end of the 2021, but telehealth has not been made permanent beyond this.

To join in the Celebration of APTA's 100 year anniversary, the new APTA TN logo and the updated APTA TN website, we are offering APTA TN members one free logoed mask. Just click on the picture below, login the APTA TN website (www.tptatn.org) as a member, enter the promotional code APTA100 and submit the form to receive your mask. After you receive it, post a picture wearing it on social media with the #APTATN100, and include a hashtag to include your "District". The district with the most #'s represented by September 1st at 5pm central, will receive special recognition at the APTA Tri-State Fall meeting!

District #'s (these will be listed on the website - under your district page)

Nashville District: #APTATN100NASH

Upper Cumberland District: #APTATN100UC

Knoxville District: #APTATN100KNOX

South Central District: #APTATN100SC

Tri-Cities District: #APTATN100TC

Chattanooga District: #APTATN100CHAT

Jackson District: #APTATN100JACK

Memphis District: #APTATN100MPHS



CE Broker is now the the official CE Tracking System of the Board of Physical Therapy in Tennessee

Should you have additional questions or need further information about this notice, please do not hesitate to contact the Board Administrative Office at (615) 741-3807.

