



# FAL Briefing Memo

November 2022

## U.S. Congress

On Nov. 2, 2022, 46 members of the U.S. Senate joined in a bipartisan [letter to Senate leaders Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.](#), pressing for the senate to respond to the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service's plan to cut the conversion factor, a key element in code valuation, by 4.6%. The reduction would significantly affect 27 specialties, including physical therapy. The letter urges the Senate to provide additional funding to CMS that would offset the planned reduction. If passed, it would be the third year in a row Congress has been forced to step in to prevent the cuts from happening.

## Federal Agencies

**White House:** In APTA's letter to the White House on the first National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health in over half a century, the association commended the administration's all of America approach to addressing the burden of diet-related diseases. APTA stands with the administration and has committed to working with our national stakeholders to end hunger nationally and reduce the burden of nutrition-related chronic diseases by 2030.

**HHS:** CMS released a Request for Applications concerning the Healthy People 2030 Champion Program. APTA accordingly submitted an application that highlights how our organization addresses the 2030 objectives and how our mission and vision align with that of the Healthy People 2030 vision. We are expecting a decision on the status of our application within the next 6-8 weeks.

**CMS:** APTA responded to a proposed rule on Medicaid eligibility and enrollment standards. The majority of our comments commend CMS for taking numerous steps towards increased participation in the Medicare Savings Program, more uniformity across CMS programs of which both Medicare and Medicaid enrollees are eligible and expanded eligibility and coverage for individuals in Medicaid and CHIP. The letter also briefly urges states to continue to ensure high rates of enrollment once the PHE ends and details the role of physical therapy services for aged and disabled populations. In addition to sending in our own comments on the proposed rule, APTA co-signed a comment letter drafted by the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities. The letter combines the voices of many disability stakeholders who largely approve this rule and asks for the expedited implementation of these proposals. CCD Task Force members also urge the rule to go further to make sure that eligible individuals can easily get and maintain the coverage they are entitled to

**CMS:** APTA signed on to a comment letter headed by the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) responding to the CMS Request for Information on Mandatory Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Core Set Reporting. Within the letter, coalition members commended CMS's plan to require stricter data collection and reporting within the

Medicaid program with a particular call to action on how health care quality and access for marginalized groups should be fairly represented in core measures. Seeing meaningful representation as central to quality measurements, CCD pushed health equity as a central goal and priority within all quality reporting mechanisms.

**CMS:** In an effort to hear provider concerns, CMS released a Request for Information seeking public input on accessing healthcare and related challenges, understanding provider experiences, advancing health equity, and assessing the impact of waivers and flexibilities provided in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). APTA commented on behalf of our 100,000 members on what barriers they face to delivering high-quality medical care to at-risk, often underserved, patients. APTA looks forward to seeing how CMS uses the comments received in response to this RFI to improve their policies, programs, and practices.

## Member Engagement & Events

APTA Payment & Regulatory Webinar: Scheduled for November 30, 2022, topics to be discussed include: 2023 Medicare Home Health Final Rule, 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule, and Commercial Payer Update. Register at: [Live Webinar | Payment Regulatory Update | APTA](#)

**2023 Federal Affairs Liaisons:** APTA component leaders have received information and instructions on submitting the name of their appointment for their component's 2023 Federal Affairs Liaison. Deadline for submission is December 16, 2022.

## APTA Articles of Interest

- [News | APTA Reaches Out to White House in Support of Health Strategy | APTA](#)
- [Regulatory Review | Final 2023 Home Health Rule Turnaround: From Proposed Cut to Slight Increase | APTA](#)
- [Article | Final 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule: What You Need to Know, Part 1 | APTA](#)
- [Article | Final 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule: What You Need to Know, Part 2 | APTA](#)
- [Article | Final 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule: What You Need to Know, Part 3 | APTA](#)
- [News | Bipartisan Senate Group Urges APTA-Supported Fixes to Fee Schedule | APTA](#)