



PPAC Briefing Memo

February 2023

Federal Agencies

- **Nomination:** APTA has nominated Richard W. Rausch PT, DPT, MBA, to serve on the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission. MACPAC is a non-partisan legislative branch agency that provides policy and data analysis and makes recommendations to Congress, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the states on a wide array of issues affecting Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The U.S. Comptroller General appoints MACPAC's 17 commissioners, who come from diverse regions across the United States and bring broad expertise and a wide range of perspectives on Medicaid and CHIP.
- **Nomination:** APTA has nominated Dee Daley to serve on The National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health. NACOSH is a statutory committee established under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to advise the Secretaries of Labor and Health and Human Services on occupational safety and health programs and policies. NACOSH is comprised of 12 members: four public representatives, two management representatives, two labor representatives, two occupational health professionals and two occupational safety professionals. The Secretary of Health and Human Services designates two of the public representatives and both of the health professionals. All members are appointed by the Secretary of Labor and serve two-year terms.
- **CMS Coverage Analysis Group on Dry Needling NCD:** On January 9th, 2023, APTA's health policy and payment team met with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to discuss the National Coverage Determination (NCD) 30.3.3 Acupuncture for Chronic Lower Back Pain (cLBP) which incorrectly lists dry needling as a form of acupuncture. During the meeting, the Coverage Analysis Group provided constructive feedback on what must be included in our request for coverage. Through ongoing conversation with CMS, we will continue to develop our reconsideration and determination requests.
- **Healthy People 2030 Champion:** APTA was selected by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) to be a Healthy People 2030 Champions. Healthy People 2030 Champions are a diverse array of public and private organizations that impact health outcomes at the state, tribal, and local level. This can include governmental and non-governmental organizations, nonprofits, businesses, academic organizations, and philanthropic organizations. These organizations are committed to working toward Healthy People's overarching goals and objectives in their communities or service areas. ODPHP will recognize Champions on the Healthy People 2030 site and provide a digital badge that organizations can use to highlight their support of Healthy People 2030 on their own websites. Champions also get information, tools, and resources to help them promote the initiative among their networks.

- **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA):** On February 15th, APTA is scheduled to meet with HRSA Administrator Carole Johnson to brief the Administration on APTA-supported legislation that will soon be introduced in Congress that would add physical therapists to the National Health Service Corp Loan Repayment Program and permit PTs to bill independently in federal community health centers. APTA will also be discussing next steps for HRSA to implement the *Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act*, APTA-priority legislation that was signed into in December.

U.S. Congress

- **Telehealth:** APTA is working to secure reintroduction of the APTA legislation *Expanded Telehealth Access Act* which would permanently include PTs and PTAs as authorized telehealth providers under Medicare. Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) intends to reintroduce the bill soon and APTA staff are working with the Congresswoman to secure a new lead Republican cosponsor (previously Rep. David McKinley (R-WV), who lost his primary election). In the Senate, APTA has been in discussion with Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) and Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) who sponsored the bill in the previous Congress on plans for reintroduction in the 118th Congress.
- **National Health Service Corp Loan Repayment Program and Community Health Centers:** APTA is working with Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) on re-introduction of APTA legislation that will combine two of APTA priority bills: legislation to include physical therapists in the National Health Service Corp (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program, and add PTs as primary health service providers (and bill independently) in federal community health centers (CHCs). The NHSC legislation will add the language from APTA's *Primary Health Services Act* from the 117th Congress. CHC's are the largest site location for participants in the NHSC Loan Repayment Program. APTA has also been in discussion with Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT) and Roger Wicker (R-MS) to again lead the bill in the Senate.
- **PT Compact:** Rep. Tracey Mann (R-KS) will reintroduce the States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act. This legislation would require the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to process requested background checks by state licensing agencies for the purpose of participation in state compacts. Some states in the PT Compact have reported difficulty obtaining the required background checks from the FBI to allow PTs to obtain Compact privileges. APTA signed a coalition letter consisting of medical providers and other associations in support of the SHARE Act.
- **Concussions:** Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced the *Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act* on February 1st. This APTA-supported legislation requires states to adopt a "when in doubt, sit it out" policy when a student athlete is suspected of having a concussion. The student cannot return to play the same day and can only do so once they have been evaluated and cleared by a health care provider.

Member Engagement & Events

- PTPAC 50th Anniversary Celebration at CSM: Friday, Feb. 24, 9 p.m.-midnight [House of Blues](#): San Diego, CA Ticket price: \$100 for PTs and PTAs; \$50 for Students Celebrate PTPAC's 50 years of advocacy for the profession at its evening event at [House of Blues](#). Tickets include drinks, appetizers, and live music! Purchase your tickets [online during APTA CSM registration](#) or call 800-809-9565. All PTPAC Eagle club members receive one free ticket, but please contact Michael Matlack at michaelmatlack@apta.org to reserve your ticket.

APTA Articles of Interest

- [News | APTA's Advocacy Road Map: Empowerment for the Profession, Results for Patients | APTA](#)
- [News | Significant CMS Prior Authorization Changes on the Horizon: Your Voice Needed | APTA](#)
- [News | APTA's Commitment to Worker Health Earns It a Spot as Affiliate in CDC Program | APTA](#)
- [What Is PTPAC? Five Things You Need to Know | APTA](#)
- [News | Mercer U. Earns Top Spot in APTA Student Advocacy Challenge | APTA](#)
- [News | CMS: Private Practices Must Continue Direct Supervision of PTAs Providing RTM | APTA](#)
- [Feature | The Digitally Enabled Physical Therapist | APTA](#)
- [News | 2023 Fee Schedule Calculator Now Available to APTA Members | APTA](#)