



Late Friday afternoon, April 19, CMS released the FY 2020 SNF PPS Proposed Rule, specifying a few changes for the Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM). HealthPRO® Heritage is looking forward to reporting out on all the modifications, but can't wait to share the following good news...

According to last night's announcement – CMS states that in the unpublished rule, Group Therapy will be defined as: “The treatment of two to six residents....”

Up until today, CMS defined Group Therapy as: “*The treatment of four residents...*”

This is good news for SNF providers, therapy providers, and residents alike!

HealthPRO® Heritage suggests: This new rule under PDPM offers us opportunity to **work smarter, not harder**. Incorporating a mode of therapy that allows us to work 2x - 6x as efficiently and will ultimately improve workflows, documentation practices, and bolster clinical initiatives (e.g., complimentary nursing programs like wound care).

Group Therapy has been passé for many years -- simply because of the challenges of managing it effectively given burdensome RUG thresholds and COT lookbacks every 7 days. Be absolutely certain Group Therapy did NOT fall out of favor over the concern of how beneficial it is for patients. **On the contrary, Group Therapy is extremely valuable!** Research conducted as recent as 2015 (Hammond, et al) and 2017 (Marumoto, et al) support that clinicians and patients see **improved outcomes** with

appropriate use of supplemental Group Therapy. The upside for patients include: improved activity tolerance, cognitive stimulation, and accountability for self-care/disease management. Likewise, the socialization, modeling, and participating in varied group activities has been proven to boost physical activity.

There is strength in numbers with Group Therapy! CMS' flexibility RE: this change should empower therapy to leverage important advantages and drive quality and performance outcomes. Stay tuned for more comments RE: Proposed Rule from HealthPRO® Heritage! In the meantime: As it relates to Group and Concurrent Therapy, HealthPRO® Heritage offers strategy & specifics [here](#).

Contact us with your questions. Reach out to us for perspective: info@healthpro-heritage.com