

Welcome to the May edition of the Public Policy Newsletter of 2020. Our committee continues to deal with all issues related to legislative, payment, reimbursement, insurance and political action committee activities. We look forward to hearing from you: aptaofma.org/advocacy

TELEHEALTH WIN FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY

CMS Guidance Allows PTs in Private Practice to Provide Service Via Telehealth

Responding to strong APTA member advocacy

The interim rule will now include PTs in private practice among the providers able to bill for services provided through real-time face-to-face technology, as well as allowing the performance of maintenance therapy by a PTA under Part B.

That's Huge!

*“A major shift strongly advocated by members.”
– APTA National*

Photo credit and article from APTA can be found [here](#).

Do you want to read directly from the CMS source? Information and article can be found [here](#)

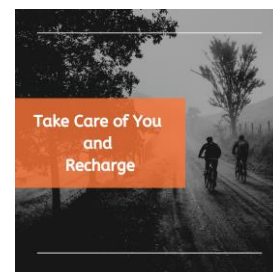
APTAMA PPC Seeks YOUR Telehealth Stories NOW

Are you treating patients through telehealth? Do you have success stories?

We need (100) by the end of the month to show the value of PT and telehealth. PPC members, alongside our payment and policy lobbyists from Smith, Crawford & Costello, will be planning to meet with private insurers in June and July. Submit your story today.

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Member Spotlight

Kevin Flaherty, PT, CSCS

*APTA of MA Public Policy Committee Co
Chair*

Kevin Flaherty has been instrumental in mobilizing patients and members to advocate for telehealth. Kevin owns Flaherty Physical Therapy in Northborough and has been seeing patients via telehealth, as well as broadcasting informational PT videos.



Tune in to next month's newsletters to learn more about our PPC co chair, James Casady.

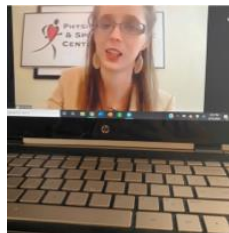
Political Spotlight

Governor Charlie Baker

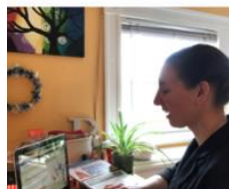


Photo: [Boston Herald](#)

“Goal” is to reopen some businesses on May 18th if coronavirus data remains on the decline



Stephanie Weyrach, PT, of New Haven, Connecticut, virtually meeting with Rep. Rosa DeLauro's (D-CT) staff.



Maegen Brady, PT, of Somerville, Massachusetts, virtually meeting with Sen. Elizabeth Warren's (D-MA) staff.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Though the **Federal Advocacy Forum in Washington, DC** was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that didn't stop APTA advocates from raising their voices.

On March 31, nearly **200 APTA members** engaged with their members of Congress and their staff through **email, social media, and virtual visits**. These are the issues APTA advocates raised with their elected officials →

4,400 emails sent to Capital Hill by APTA members and supporters

35 virtual meetings with members of Congress and their staff

7,134 people reached on Twitter

- **Stop Medicare Reimbursement Cuts Part One:** Ask your legislator to include legislative language, in COVID-19 relief packages that would waive the budget neutrality requirements in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for a period of no less than 5 years.
- **Stop Medicare Reimbursement Cuts Part Two:** Request that your member of Congress submits a letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma expressing concern about provider cuts in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and the need to reconsider the proposal in its current form.
- **Expand therapy coverage within telehealth:** The list of providers who are authorized to provide and bill for services via telehealth under Medicare needs to expand by allowing a waiver on current restrictions and making it permanent once the crisis is over. Include the **CONNECT for Health Act (H.R. 4932-S. 2741)** in future COVID-19 relief package.