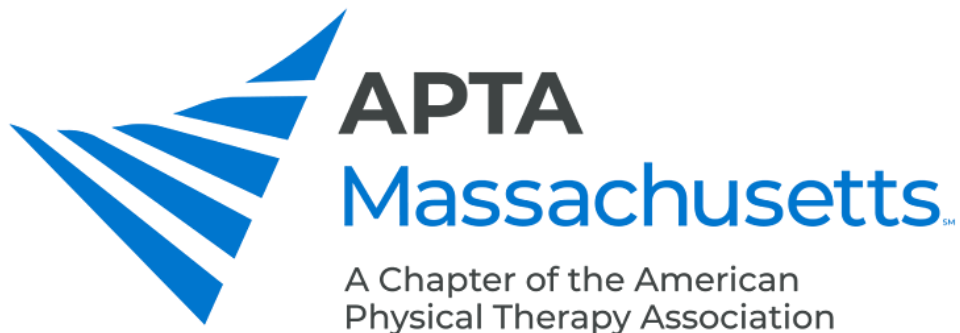


PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

WINTER 2020



Welcome to the first 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

PHYSICAL THERAPY ADVOCACY ON THE 8% MEDICARE CUT

Senator Ed Markey at a town hall on the [Green New Deal](#) at Somerville High School. Maegen Brady from the MA PT PAC asked the Senator a question and he responded, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I support PT and will work to fight the 8% cut.”



Reimbursement & Insurance Updates

Worker's Compensation Billing Issues

- It has come to the Public Policy Committees' attention from a few different PT clinics that they have been having issues with being paid on 4 units of a code during a treatment session.
- The clinics have only been paid for 1 unit even though they have billed 4; told that the insurance carrier is following WC billing procedures.

PPC recommendations:

- 1) Start checking your WC claims closer than normal
- 2) If there is a discrepancy, call the adjuster and have a conversation about the billing error and have them re bill the claims correctly.
- 3) If they are claiming the regs have changed, ask them for a copy of what they are referencing. [Current regs](#) (circa 2009).
- 4) Reassess your documentation and make sure your documentation shows adequate medical necessity for the code in question.

CONTACT

PPC: Kevin Flaherty; flahertykpt@gmail.com & James Casady; jcasady2@hotmail.com
Newsletter Author, in collaboration with PPC: Maegen Brady; maebrady@gmail.com
Web @ aptaofma.org ; [Facebook.com/APTAofMA](https://www.facebook.com/APTAofMA) ; Twitter @APTAofMA



Political Action Committee

Connect with @MAPTPAC on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#)

Keep up to date with the committee fighting to give our profession a voice in the MA legislature. Questions? MassachusettsPTPAC@gmail.com

Donate now to the MA PT PAC maptpac.nationbuilder.com

Mark your calendars

APTA Federal Advocacy Forum

Sunday, March 29th – Tuesday, March 31st

JW Marriott in Washington, DC

#PTAdvocacy Pre PT Day on the Hill Town Hall

Virtual option available

Wednesday, March 18th

6:30-8:30 pm

MGH IHP, Building 36, 1st Avenue, Charlestown, MA

PT Day on the Hill and Scope of Practice Fair

Monday, April 6th, 2020

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Massachusetts State House in the Great Hall



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

On the national level, there was a major win in payment

- On January 24th, CMS announced that it would reverse most of its 2020 damaging coding edits.
- PTs will be able to, for the most part, return to coding practices that were in effect prior to January 1, 2020.
- Thank you to APTA and all members involved in advocating! Read more [here](#)

On the state level, APTAMA continues to work with our lobbyists at McGlynn & McGlynn

- ATC bill was **sent to study**, meaning that it stops in the legislative process, as this time

- PT still encouraged to educate legislators on concern over language and patient safety at PT Day on the Hill

Dry needling advocacy

- AMA released DN codes effective 1/1/2020
- Most insurances do not pay for this, but it eliminates the issue of PT clinics billing DN under Manual Therapy and NMR
- The codes describing dry needling include 20560 for “needle insertion(s) without injection(s); 1 or 2 muscle(s)”
- 20561 for “needle insertion(s) without injection(s); 3 or more muscles.”
- PT encouraged to educate their legislators on dry needling practices