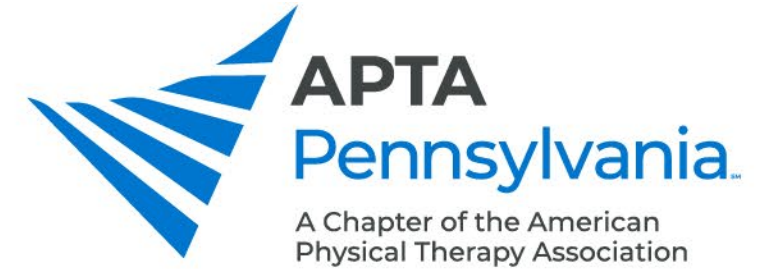


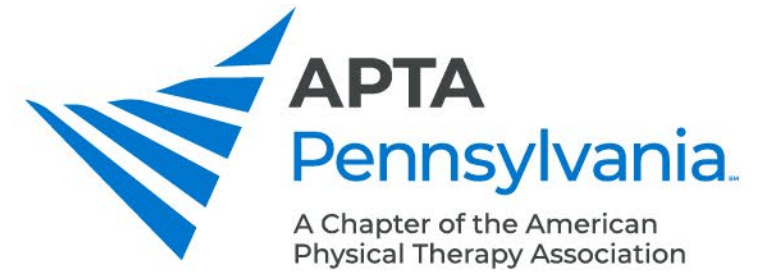
Scan the QR code to sign in
for **in-person attendees**



Westcentral District Meeting

March 11, 2025





Westcentral District Meeting

March 11, 2025

District Leadership

Executive Committee



Shannon Scanlan
Chair



Brittany Sponsler
Vice Chair



Nate Barr
Treasurer

Open Position

Secretary



Ivan Mulligan
Delegate

District Leadership

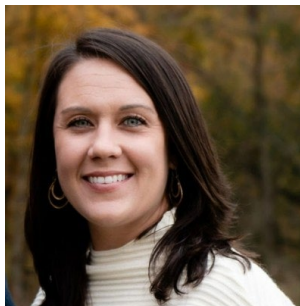
Committee Chairs

- Membership Committee

- Open Position

- Nominating Committee

- Steve Podratsky
- Jennifer Randall



- Legislative Committee

- Kim Todaro



- Education Committee

- Nikki Davis



Student Liaisons

- Saint Francis University
 - Jacob McCloskey
 - Looking for another student to serve!
- Mount Aloysius College
 - Sydney Leturgey
 - LaShae Allison





Check Out Our SIGs

- Acute Care
- Geriatrics
- PTA
- Pediatrics
- Neurology
- Private Practice
- Student

Nominating Committee Report - District



- District Openings
 - Secretary
 - Membership Committee
 - All committees welcome support!
- Looking for someone to mentor into the Chair/District Director role
 - Term ends 2025
- Accepting nominations this year for:
 - Chair/District Director
 - Nominating Chair

House of Delegates Update



- Upcoming National Elections (Elections in November)
 - Secretary
 - Vice Speaker
 - Board of Director Positions (3)
 - Nominating Committee (2)
- New Code of Ethics
 - Released in next few weeks and voted on by HoD in July (13th-14th)
- Upcoming motion: new specialization in Primary Care
- Information about motions will be presented in upcoming meetings

Updating our Legislative Action Network



- Looking for individuals interested in being a point of contact to their legislators
- We need representatives from Somerset, Clearfield, and Indiana Counties
- APTA-PA Advocacy Initiatives in 2025:
 - Direct Access
 - Dry Needling
- SB 197: Physical Therapy Direct Access and Treatment Timeframe
 - Sent to Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee
 - Senator Pat Stefano is head of that Committee



Student Update: SFU C.A.R.E. Clinic

Have someone to refer?

Contact Claire at:
cfo400@francis.edu

Current Practice Alerts

Understanding
Locum Tenens
in Physical Therapy
Private Practice Clinics



Image Source: LW Consulting



Congress Reintroduces Locum Tenens Bill

Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act (H.R. 1517),

- A bipartisan bill introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives
- Seeks to expand engagement in what CMS calls "reciprocal billing and fee-for-service" to all PTs.

Current locum tenens provisions

- Allow a PT to arrange for another qualified PT to treat the PT's patients during a temporary absence due to illness, vacation, continuing education, pregnancy, and other events, and still receive payment from Medicare.
- **The current bill is limited to PTs in rural or underserved areas.**
- **This bipartisan bill proposes to expand the ability of PTs to bring in another licensed PT to treat Medicare patients during temporary absences.**

Please contact your legislators and ask them to support this important legislation.

Current Practice Alerts

Congress Passed Year-End Legislation That Included APTA-Backed Three-Month Medicare Extension on Telehealth through March 2025

This extension is due to expire when the Congressional budget extension expires at the end of March.

It is anticipated that an extension for telehealth for the remainder of 2025 or later will be on the table for inclusion in the March 2025 Congressional Budget Package.

Watch for updates in the weekly Practice Updates published each Wednesday for APTA members

For More Information on Telehealth, see the Practice & Research Committee article, “**Practicing Telehealth Responsibly**” published in the APTA-PA Newsletter at: [Launch the 2024 Newsletter!](#)



Image Source: A.T. Still University

Current Practice Alerts

2025 Medicare Updates:



Image Source: X.com

Supervision of Physical Therapist Assistants. The supervision requirement for physical therapist assistants under Medicare Part B will change from the current burdensome direct supervision requirement to general supervision.

APTA, in HOD Position Statement HOD P06-00-15-26 defines General Supervision as: “The PT is not required to be onsite for supervision but must be available at least by telecommunication. The ability of the PTA to provide services shall be assessed on an ongoing basis by the supervising PT.”

In all instances, PTs and PTAs must also abide by the supervision requirements in the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Practice Act 110 [Law - Act 110 of 1975 \(PDF\)](#) and Chapter 40 [Regulations](#).



Current Practice Alerts

Therapy Plan of Care Certification Reform.

Under this new exemption, the plan of care certification by the physician requirement will be deemed satisfied if the PT simply submits the plan to the patient's referring physician within 30 days of the initial evaluation.

Anticipating inquiries, APTA developed [a resource webpage with a summary and answers to potential questions, including information on referral requirements](#)

The PA Practice Act 110:
Requires a referral to treat.

Direct Access: Can treat up to 30 days without a referral, but may not treat beyond 30 days from the 1st treatment unless he/she has obtained a referral from a licensed physician.

The Practice Act is silent on whether a signed plan of care meets the requirement for a referral.

Plan of Care Certification





Image Source: Kingston Frontenac Public Library



APTA Backed Falls Screening Legislation Returns to Congress. Stopping Addiction and Falls for the Elderly Act, or SAFE Act

- Reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, 119th Congress.
- Contact your Legislator and ask for support

APTA Capitol Hill Day 2025



Image Source: APTA

Omni Shoreham, Washington, DC
July 14 - 15, 2025

APTA Webinar



APTA Regulatory, Legislative, and Payment Updates

Date/Time: 04/03/2025 at 2:30 PM (EDT)

**Cost: PT, PTA, Student, Post-professional
Student: Free. Non-member: \$49.**

Questions ???



Contact:

Mary Ann Wharton

Practice & Research Chair

mawhartonpt@gmail.com



Chair Report

- New organizational management company: AMPED
 - Contact information is on our website
- Contact your legislator on HR 879: Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act of 2025
 - Would eliminate the 2.8% schedule cut
 - Provide for inflation adjustment starting April 1
 - Must pass by March 15th

APTA-PA Spring Reimbursement Update Webinar



April 30 and May 1, 2025



9 am – 12:30 pm each day



Agenda and Registration will be posted soon!



Information will be released in weekly email from Chapter office

Insurance Updates

- Upcoming Trialliance meeting with Highmark on March 13th
 - Re: Quality measure for benchmarking
- Highmark:
 - Effective April 18: will be able to attach supporting documentation for authorization in Availity for initial claim submission
- UPMC
 - Effective March 7th – providers can opt-out
 - The Payment Team is seeking more information and is happy to speak with members about this new contract
 - Webinars are now posted on the provider website to explain new Tiers

Note from Vice Chair



Got topic ideas?



Got speaker ideas?



Send information to:
Brittany Sponsler
britt.sponsler@gmail.com

Upcoming District Meetings

- May 13, 2025
 - Review of Grade V Mobilizations for the Lumbar Spine: Bill Padamonsky
 - HANDS ON Lab! In-person only
 - Saint Francis University – Stokes 221
- Keep an eye out for District and Chapter email blasts for upcoming spring meetings!

We would love your feedback!



Questions?