



News & Updates

December 10, 2025 | Issue 304



U.S. Department of Education Proposal Jeopardizes Physical Therapy Professional Recognition and the Future Health Care Workforce

APTA calls on DOE to adopt a definition that reflects the profession's advanced level of education and status as a doctoring profession.

APTA is deeply concerned by the recent recommendation from the [Reimagining and Improving Student Education, or RISE, Negotiated Rulemaking Committee](#), which, if enacted, would designate the doctor of physical therapy degree — and dozens of other health care professional degrees — as a graduate degree rather than a professional degree.

If this proposed definition is adopted via official rulemaking by the Department of Education, the ability to borrow for federal student loans would be severely reduced, threatening to limit the physical therapy workforce at a time of nationwide shortages.

APTA strongly opposes this proposal and will continue to engage with the Department of Education to advocate for the profession, most especially when the proposed rule is published for public comment in early 2026. APTA is urging Congress to intervene, as the proposed definition runs contrary to congressional intent.

[Read More](#)

[Contact your Representatives Now!](#)

CMS Updates Guidance to Reflect Current Plan of Care Signature Exception

Coordinated APTA advocacy efforts help to reduce administrative burden and ensure CMS is providing consistent Medicare guidance.

A recent U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' [MLN Matters update](#) provided guidance on a range of topics, including the plan of care signature exception from the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule rule that went into effect Jan. 1. The update follows months of coordinated advocacy efforts by APTA and the American Occupational Therapy Association.

[Read More](#)

APTA-Supported Medicare Payment Reform Legislation

[Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act \(H.R. 879\)](#)

This bill would eliminate the CMS 2.83% payment cut implemented on Jan. 1, 2025, to health care providers that treat Medicare Part B patients. The bill would also establish an annual inflationary update to payment rates based on the Medicare Economic Index.

- Primary sponsor: Rep. Greg Murphy, R-N.C.
- House cosponsors: 176
- Status: Referred to House Energy and Commerce Committee and House Ways and Means Committee.
- Current activities and next steps: Push for markup in the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Increase the number of House cosponsors.

View the bills APTA is advocating in support of before the current 119th U.S. Congress that convened on Jan. 3, 2025 by clicking the link below.

[APTA Legislative Update Bill Status](#)

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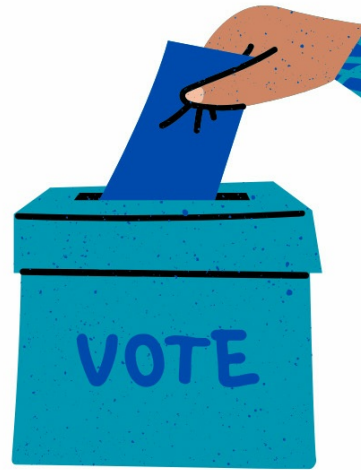
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Upcoming Events

**JANUARY 17-18, 2026
Bradenton, FL**

APTA Credentialed Clinical
Instructor Program – Level 1

**FEBRUARY 28 -
MARCH 1, 2026
Bradenton, FL**

APTA Credentialed Clinical

Certification Course

Event Dates & Times:

- Saturday, January 17th, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM (ET)
- Sunday, January 18th, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (ET)

Location:

Manatee Memorial Hospital
206 2nd St. E
Bradenton, FL 34208

Trainer:

Gina Musolino, PT, DPT, EdD, MSED

[Register](#)

Instructor Program – Level 1 Certification Course

Event Dates & Times:

- Saturday, February 28th, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM (ET)
- Sunday, March 1st, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (ET)


Location:

Keiser University - Lakeland, FL
2400 Interstate Drive
Lakeland, FL 33805


Trainer:

Gina Musolino, PT, DPT, EdD, MSED

[Register](#)



Feb. 27-28
2026
STUDENT CONCLAVE
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 **FPTA**
FLORIDA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

FPTA Student Member - \$55
Student Non-Member - \$60
FGCU Student Attendees - \$40

[Register Now!](#)

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

**NW DISTRICT PUB NIGHT
& UGLY SWEATER CONTEST**

Friday Dec. 12th, at 6:30 pm
O'Rileys Irish Pub: 321 S. Palafox St., Pensacola, FL 32502

**The Theme will be ugly Holiday Sweater Contest
with a prize going to the Ugliest sweater.**



2025 FPT-PAC

The money raised for the Florida Physical Therapy Political Action Committee (FPT-PAC) will be used in our efforts to modernize the Practice Act in Florida. The Florida Practice Act governs every physical therapist and physical therapist assistant in the state. We need your support to modernize the act and remove barriers to providing physical therapy services. [Donate Today](#)

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