

JGAC Briefing Memo

September 2025



Federal Agencies

- **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Home Health Comments:** On August 29, 2025, APTA submitted our comments in response to the CY 2026 Home Health Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule. We opposed the proposed 6.4% payment reduction, commented on the proposal to removal numerous SDOH and vaccine-related items and measures from the Quality Reporting Program, and supported the addition of three functional measures to the Expanded Value-Based Purchasing Program.
- **National Institute for Health Request for Information:** On August 29, 2025, APTA submitted comments in response to the National Institute for Health Request for Information on NIH Research Plan on Rehabilitation Scientific Themes for fiscal years 2026-2030. APTA briefly commented on each of the five themes in conjunction with the comments developed and submitted by the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition of which APTA is a steering committee member.
- **Meeting with Administration for Community Living:** On August 27, APTA staff member, Rachel Miller, attended a meeting with Deputy Administrator Mary Lazare from the Administration for Community Living. The meeting was requested and scheduled under the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition. The DRRC gathered information on the future of ACL and the new Administrator's goals in conjunction with those of DRRC.
- **Department of Education's Negotiated Rulemaking on Student Loans:** On August 25, 2025, APTA signed on to a letter drafted by the National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel to the Department of Education's (ED) Reimagining and Improving Student Education (RISE) Committee as they begin their work on the negotiated rulemaking to implement the student financial aid provisions. The goal of the letter is to ensure that the regulatory definition of "professional degree program" includes the myriad school-based professionals (e.g. school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, social workers and school social workers; occupational therapy practitioners, physical therapists, speech-language

pathologists, audiologists, and other specialized instructional support personnel) for which a master's or doctoral degree is required to obtain a state credential to practice (e.g. licensure and/or certification).

U.S. Congress

- **Continuing Resolution Deadline:** On March 14, 2025, the U.S. Congress passed a continuing resolution, or CR, to extend funding for federal agencies and programs through Sept. 30. If Congress does not pass another CR by midnight on Sept. 30, current funding for the federal government will run out, leading to at least a partial government shutdown.
- **Telehealth:** The Medicare telehealth waivers enacted during the pandemic – including the authority of PTs and PTAs to serve as authorized telehealth providers – will expire on September 30, 2025, unless Congress acts to extend them. It is anticipated that an extension will be included in the upcoming Continuing Resolution that Congress must pass by September 30 to fund the federal government or risk another government shutdown. In August APTA joined over 350 healthcare organizations consisting of provider and patient groups in a letter to Congressional leadership urging Congress to act before the scheduled expiration and to authorize the longest possible extension of current Medicare telehealth policy. Concurrently, APTA is advocating for legislation to make PTs and PTAs permanent authorized providers.
- **Home Health:** On Thursday, September 4, 2025, Representatives Kevin Hern (R-Okla.) and Terri Sewell (D-Ala.) introduced the Home Health Stabilization Act of 2025, legislation aimed at pausing cuts to the Medicare home health reimbursement rate for 2026 and 2027. Specifically, the bill would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to apply a positive payment adjustment to offset negative payments included in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed home health rule for 2026. The 2026 payment rate would be based on the 2025 rate.

Member Engagement

- **2025 Flash Action Strategy:** The [2025 APTA Flash Action Strategy](#). Is scheduled for September 17-18, 2025. The annual APTA Flash Action Strategy is a student-led two-day nationwide social media blitz that brings PT and PTA students together to speak with one voice on key legislative issues impacting the profession. This year, [the focus will be on the SAFE Act \(H.R. 1171 or Stopping Addiction and Falls for the Elderly Act\), our falls prevention bill](#). A virtual social media kickoff event is September 16 at 8:00 p.m. ET.

APTA Articles of Interest

- [The Clock Is Ticking for Congress to Extend Medicare Telehealth Waivers | APTA](#)
- [Advocacy Update | Why Relationships Matter in Advocacy With Payers | APTA](#)
- [News | Congress Investigating TRICARE Issues Amid Provider and Patient Disruptions | APTA](#)
- [Congress Is Back in Town: 5 Things to Watch on Capitol Hill in September | APTA](#)
- [Final FY '26 SNF and IRF Rules: Payment Increases and Removal of SDOH Measures | APTA](#)
- [Article | 500 Member Advocates Push for Change During APTA Capitol Hill Day | APTA](#)
- [News | APTA State Chapters Fuel Legislative Wins in 2025 | APTA](#)