



Home Health Briefing Memo

April 2025

U.S. Congress

- **Medicare Fee Schedule:** On Friday, March 14, 2025, President Trump signed a Continuing Resolution (CR) that funds the federal government through Sept. 30 but fails to address dozens of critical policies, including funding for a needed payment boost under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The CR did extend current telehealth flexibilities through September 30, 2025. Congress passed a CR in December 2024 that funded the government through March 14 and extended telehealth waivers but failed to provide extra funding to address the 2025 fee schedule cuts. It was expected this additional funding would be included in the new package, and this second failure sparked an outcry from various health care provider and patient groups [including APTA](#) and [the American Medical Association](#).

Rep. Greg Murphy, R-N.C., APTA, AMA, and other health care provider groups have been pushing to include the APTA-supported [Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act of 2025](#) (H.R. 879) in the legislative package. H.R. 879, sponsored by Murphy, would fully eliminate the 2.8% fee schedule cut and provide for an inflation adjustment starting April 1. On Feb. 28, APTA joined AMA and 90 other national health care provider groups in a [joint letter to the Congress](#) urging them to include H.R. 879 in the new spending package.

While Congress failed to address the fee schedule, lawmakers are seeking other options to address Medicare payment, including a potential stand-alone bill to address all of the health care policies that were left out of the CR package. In addition, House leaders have stated that they could address the fee schedule in the upcoming budget reconciliation package; however, the timing of when Congress will take up that legislation is unclear. Focus remains on pushing for H.R. 879 to be included in any upcoming legislative package. Read the statement from APTA President Kyle Covington, PT, DPT, [HERE](#).

- **SHARE Act Reintroduced:** On March 25, 2025, Reps. Tracey Mann (R-KS) and Joe Neguse (D-CO) and Sens. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Peter Welch (D-VT) introduced H.R. 2332/S.1101, the States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act. The bill aims to ensure that required federal background checks are processed so PTs and PTAs and other providers can participate in interstate licensure compacts. These background checks must be completed for states and providers to obtain Compact privileges. This legislation would require the FBI to expeditiously process the requested background checks and deliver the resulting information to the state licensing boards.

The PT Compact allows eligible PTs and PTAs the ability to practice in states in addition to the ones where the PT and PTA is currently licensed. If enacted into law, the bill would better enable

PTs and PTAs to provide their services in multiple states without having to complete the time-consuming and costly effort to become licensed in every jurisdiction. In the previous Congress, this APTA-endorsed legislation was supported by almost 60 healthcare provider associations and major hospitals.

Commercial Payors

- **UHC Authorization Technology Updates:** UnitedHealthcare contacted APTA in March regarding technology refinements to its Medicare Advantage prior authorization process for outpatient physical therapy. The refinements offer real-time member eligibility and coverage information as well as a shortened submission form for initial prior authorization of six or fewer visits over eight weeks. In its communications with APTA, UHC said it would not publish a statement or messaging, but that providers should access the applicable [FAQs](#).

Federal Agencies

- **National Institute for Health Strategic Plan:** On March 12, DRRC submitted comments that endorse the draft framework goals for the Strategic Plan for Disability Health Research FY26-FY30 and encourage the NIH to publish and implement this strategic plan in summer 2025 as planned.
- **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:** On March 14, APTA staff met with staff from CMS' Division of Practitioner Services to discuss the elimination of the multiple procedure payment reduction, corrective coding edits to lymphedema treatment codes, therapy diagnostic codes, and billing for home health agencies. APTA will continue to consult with CMS staff on these issues.
- **TRICARE:** On March 18, 2025, Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI) sent a letter to the Defense Health Agency regarding issues with payments to providers under TRICARE. On January 1, 2025, TriWest Healthcare Alliance (TriWest) became the contractor for the TRICARE West Region adding six states formerly in the East Region and resulting in significant operational and payment challenges. Read the letter from Rep. Bergman [HERE](#).
- **Department of Education:** On March 24, APTA, alongside other members of the IDEA Implementation Coalition, sent a letter to the ranking members of the House Education and Workforce Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee urging them to oppose any efforts to move the administration of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act outside of the U.S. Department of Education.
- **Administration for Community Living:** On March 28, 2025, APTA, alongside other members of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition, [urged HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy to pause his plans to dismantle the Administration for Community Living \(ACL\)](#), including the National Institute for Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), and meet with national disability, rehabilitation, and other stakeholder organizations to discuss the future of ACL. The DRRC also formally requested a meeting with Secretary Kennedy to discuss

the reorganization of ACL as an important government agency for older Americans and individuals with disabilities.

Advocacy Engagement Opportunities

- [American Physical Therapy Association: APTA Regulatory, Legislative, and Payment Updates, June 2025](#)
- [Event | APTA Capitol Hill Day | APTA](#)
- [APTA Future of Rehab Therapy Summit 2025 | APTA](#)

APTA Articles of Interest

- [Telehealth, PT Compact Legislation Reintroduced in U.S. Congress | APTA](#)
- [Podcast | APTA Advocacy Update, March 2025 | APTA](#)
- [APTA and Coalition Partners Fight Against Potential Cuts to Medicaid | APTA](#)
- [What to Consider Before Deciding to Participate in MIPS Cost Category | APTA](#)
- [Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Cuts | APTA](#)
- [Congress Fails to Address Medicare Fee Schedule in Continuing Resolution | APTA](#)
- [APTA, AMA, Others Demand Action From Congress to Address Fee Schedule | APTA](#)
- [Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Cuts: A Call to Action from APTA's President | APTA](#)