



# August FAL Call Minutes

August 27, 2025, 8:00 PM ET

**The Zoom recording can be accessed here: [https://apta-org.zoom.us/rec/share/bMZZK0KAwc2Z\\_Dz1AoW6W7J1w\\_B1ZY9XhY\\_F7-aMfX8HvRa1zwqSSNDumnUX6oHe.ssdO4xdvD3M\\_RYzn](https://apta-org.zoom.us/rec/share/bMZZK0KAwc2Z_Dz1AoW6W7J1w_B1ZY9XhY_F7-aMfX8HvRa1zwqSSNDumnUX6oHe.ssdO4xdvD3M_RYzn)**

## Regulatory Update

**CMS Physician Fee Schedule and KX Modifier:** CMS initially omitted the KX modifier section from the proposed Physician Fee Schedule rule but later issued a correction on August 13. The correction raised the 2026 therapy threshold to \$2,680 (2.7% increase) but allowed only a 30-day comment period instead of the standard 60, which APTA views as bad precedent. APTA will submit comments by the September 12 deadline emphasizing the importance of adequate review time.

**Member Action on Proposed Rules:** Members are [strongly encouraged to submit comments](#) on both the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (due September 12) and the Home Health Rule (due August 29). APTA asks members to personalize comments by adding a short paragraph on how the proposals impact their ability to treat Medicare patients, as individualized stories carry weight with CMS.

**NIH Request for Information (RFI):** The NIH is seeking feedback on its rehabilitation research plan for FY 2026–2030. APTA, alongside coalition partners, submitted comments urging expanded research on therapy dosage, access barriers, clinical services tied to medical devices, implementation science, and workforce investment. Individual members are also encouraged to submit brief (300-word max) comments by August 29.

## Congressional Update

**Congressional Outlook and Medicare Advocacy:** Congress returns from August recess facing deadlines on government funding, sequestration (which could cause a 4% across-the-board cut), and possible rescissions packages. APTA continues pushing for long-term Medicare payment reform, including inflationary updates, budget neutrality fixes, and MPPR repeal. September will see renewed advocacy on APTA's broader priority bills.

**TRICARE Payment Issues:** Ongoing TRICARE non-payment problems are being addressed in the National Defense Authorization Act. House report language requires a detailed review of unpaid claims, provider network losses, and the failed payment processing contract. APTA continues collecting member reports to strengthen congressional engagement on this issue.

**Falls Prevention and the SAFE Act:** The SAFE Act (H.R. 1171/S. 2612), would expand Medicare access to PT-led falls prevention screenings, was introduced in the Senate and mirrors the bipartisan House bill. Its momentum aligns with Falls Prevention Awareness Week (Sept. 22) and APTA Flash Action Strategy, a student-led social media campaign.

**Telehealth Policy:** Current Medicare telehealth flexibilities expire on September 30 unless Congress extends them. Lawmakers are expected to pass an extension, though the length is uncertain. APTA is also advocating for permanent authorization of PTs and PTAs as telehealth providers under Medicare.

## PTPAC Update

**PTPAC and Hill Day Follow-Up:** Members are urged to reconnect with congressional offices they met during APTA Capitol Hill Day in July, as staff often need reminders after being away for August Recess. PTPAC contributions are encouraged to support direct congressional engagement, both in Washington and back home at district fundraisers, ensuring continued access to lawmakers.

## Grassroots and August Recess Update

**August Recess:** Let us know if there are any outstanding August Recess visits.

**Flash Action Strategy:** Students will lead efforts on social media for the SAFE Act through social media and congressional outreach. Faculty are encouraged to support, but student leadership is emphasized. APTA is recruiting program-level “point people” to organize efforts locally. APTA Flash Action Strategy begins with a virtual kick-off event on September 16 at 8:00 p.m. ET and the two days of action are September 17-18.

**The next FAL call will be Wednesday, September 24 at 8:00 p.m. ET**