

1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488
703 684 2782
703 684 7343 fax
www.apta.org

Officers

R. Scott Ward, PT, PhD
President

Paul A. Rockar Jr, PT, DPT, MS
Vice President

Laurita M. Hack, PT, DPT, PhD,
MBA, FAPTA
Secretary

Elmer R. Platz, PT
Treasurer

Shawne E. Soper, PT, DPT, MBA
Speaker of the House

William F. McGehee, PT, MHS
Vice Speaker

Directors

Sharon L. Dunn, PT, PhD, OCS

Jennifer Green-Wilson, PT, EdD, MBA

Roger A. Herr, PT, MPA, COS-C

Dianne V. Jewell, PT, DPT, PhD,
CCS

Aimee B. Klein, PT, DPT, DSc,
OCS

Kathleen K. Mairella, PT, DPT, MA

David A. Pariser, PT, PhD

Mary C. Sinnott, PT, DPT, MEd

Nicole L. Stout, PT, MPT,
CLT-LANA

Chief Executive Officer

John D. Barnes

Combined Sections Meeting

February 8-11, 2012
Chicago, IL

PT 2012

June 6-9, 2012
Tampa, FL

December 12, 2011

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman
U.S. Committee on Ways and Means
1101 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Camp:

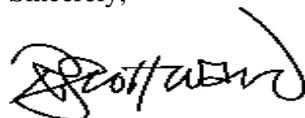
On behalf of the American Physical Therapy Association and its 82,000 members, I write to express support for Section 2201 and Section 2203 of the ***Middle Class Tax and Job Creation Act of 2011 (H.R.3630)*** relating to the Medicare Part B reimbursement under the fee schedule and to the therapy cap exceptions process, respectively. APTA appreciates the work of the Committee in seeking a two-year extension of both the fee schedule payment adjustment and the exceptions process to the outpatient therapy caps, which both expire at the end of this year.

Congress has acted many times to address both of these issues which place in jeopardy seniors' access to necessary services. The two-year extension of the therapy caps will allow the Congress time to work with therapy stakeholders and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop and enact meaningful changes to Medicare's outpatient rehabilitation payment system, enabling the repeal of arbitrary limits on this Medicare benefit. We are pleased to see that this legislation specifically begins the process of creating a path to reform of the therapy benefit.

APTA supports the components of the updated exceptions process in Section 2203 to include rejecting all claims above the spending limit that do not include the proper billing modifier, providing for a manual review of all claims for high-cost beneficiaries to ensure that only medically necessary services are being provided, and extending these provisions to outpatient therapy services provided in all Part B practice settings, including outpatient hospital departments. While APTA supports uniform payment policies across all outpatient therapy settings, we urge the House and Senate to work together to identify cost savings that would not require placing a hard cap on the outpatient hospital department setting. APTA strongly supports uniform payment and benefit policies under Medicare, but its overarching goal is the repeal of arbitrary limits on Medicare benefits such as physical therapy. Imposing the cap on this setting would make it more costly to repeal such a policy down the road while also potentially further impeding patient access to therapy services.

APTA appreciates your continuing commitment to addressing the rehabilitation needs of Medicare beneficiaries.

Sincerely,



R. Scott Ward, PT, PhD
President

RSW:mkf