

The Asks

Below are the issues we are asking you to advocate for during the Virtual Federal Advocacy Forum. Please note, as the COVID-19 situation evolves, these asks may change. The APTA Government Affairs team will notify you as soon as possible if that happens.

Proposed Medicare Fee Schedule Cuts - E/M Codes

- Ask your legislator to include legislative language, supported by over 30 health care provider organizations, in COVID-19 relief packages that would waive the budget neutrality requirements for the finalized E/M code proposal for a period of no less than five years. Please see the virtual packet for specific language to send to the office.
- Request that your member of Congress submits a letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma, expressing concern about the E/M code proposal, its impact on patient access to care, particularly in rural and underserved areas, and the need to reconsider the proposal in its current form. Please see the virtual packet for the letter to send to the office.

Telehealth

- Every day more Medicare beneficiaries are losing access to critically important physical therapy services as outpatient clinics are closing, and therapists have few options to continue to provide services. The list of providers who are authorized to provide and bill for services via telehealth under Medicare needs to expand by allowing a waiver on current restrictions. Include the CONNECT for Health Act (H.R. 4932-S. 2741) in any future COVID-19 relief package.



Ways to Advocate

Reconnect with Your Legislator's Office: If you were in the process of making a meeting for FAF or cancelled one, please reach back out to the contact and see if you can meet virtually (like a Zoom meeting, for example) or over the phone. With the evolving situation, some offices are open to this, some prefer an email. Just reach out and see what is possible and let Laura Keivel (laurakeivel@apta.org) know if you are able to schedule one.

Call Your Legislators. On March 31, call your legislators' offices with the asks above. Check out their website for the office phone number.

Tele-Town Halls: Check to see if your legislator is hosting a tele-town hall or Facebook town hall. If you are able to speak, please be succinct and have one ask ready to present.

Action Alerts. On March 31, APTA will be sending out action alerts for mass participation. Please be sure to send a letter and direct your colleagues to the Patient Action Center to send their own letters. Be sure to use the APTA Action App on your phone to make sending a letter even easier!

Social Media. Use the sample tweets below to connect with your legislators on social media. Be sure to tag your legislator in the tweet so they see it, and please use their official House or Senate Twitter handle (some have campaign Twitter accounts).

1. Support waiving budget neutrality for the finalized E/M codes in #COVID19 relief packages #PTAdvocacy #FAF
2. Send a letter to CMS about the E/M code proposal and the impact it will have on patient care #PTAdvocacy #FAF