President’s Message

HR 3950: A Physical Therapy Perspective

As many of you may recall last fall I discussed some of the options on the table for health care reform in one of my president’s messages. Well, on March 23, 2010 HR 3950 (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) was signed into law, quickly followed by the signing of HR 4872 (better known as the reconciliation bill). This landmark legislation will likely forever change the way healthcare will be delivered in this country in addition to dramatically affecting each of us as a patient, provider, and taxpayer.

I would like to give you a brief overview of the legislation as well as highlight the areas that will directly impact the provision of physical therapy services. These items will be implemented over a period of time, most by 2014. Let’s first take a look at the overview of the legislation:

- Expanding Access to Coverage – This legislation creates state based American Health Benefit Exchanges. These exchanges would be the vehicle by which individuals and small businesses could purchase their health benefits coverage.
- Individual Mandate – HR 3950 mandates that US citizens and legal immigrants have qualifying health coverage. There are penalties that will be phased in for those without coverage and a few exceptions that will allow some without coverage to be exempt from the penalties.
- Employers – It requires employers with > 50 employees to offer health insurance benefits or face penalties. Requires employers with >200 employees to automatically enroll their employees into the health plan and the employee can opt out if he/she chooses.
- Public Option – A public option that must survive on its own premiums and is to be a part of the state based exchanges will be created from this legislation.

Let’s next take a look at some of APTA’s main concerns going into the health care reform debate and how we fared while at the table lobbying for our priorities:

- Medicare Therapy Cap – Once again, we have found ourselves with a one year extension of the exceptions process of the therapy cap. While a permanent fix to this long standing payment issue is preferable, this bill again allows seniors who need physical therapy services to receive treatment when certain conditions relative to their diagnosis are met.

(Continued on page 3)
LPTA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
Please continue to encourage your fellow PTs, PTAs and students to join or renew their APTA/LPTA membership!

<table>
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Bayou Bulletin Publisher Information
The Bayou Bulletin is published six times a year by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Association (LPTA). Copy and advertising inquiries should be directed to LPTA. Advertising rate sheets and deadlines for each issue are available upon request.

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UPCOMING EVENTS
Mark Your Calendar NOW!

2010

June 16-19
APTA Annual Conference
Boston, MA

September 24-26
LPTA Fall Meeting
Baton Rouge, LA
• Medicare Direct Access – This bill creates a new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Innovation Center. It also states that they have to study direct access to physical therapy services under Medicare.

• Geographical Practice Cost Index (GCPI) – It extends the GCPI of 1.0 for one additional year.

• Rehabilitation as a Minimum Benefit – Establishes rehabilitation and habilitation as a minimum benefits.

• Non-Discrimination – Includes strong non-discrimination language on benefits and providers. This is better known as the pre-existing condition language.

• Workforce – Physical therapists are included in the allied health recruitment and retention programs relative to healthcare workforce issues.

Some concerning issues specific to PT that were not fully addressed or were created as a result of this legislation are:

• Bundling – A national pilot program on payment bundling will be created to study improvement of care through bundled payment models. APTA has expressed concern about the lack of parameters under which these pilots will be implemented.

• Self Referral – Some minor transparency issues are touched upon, however there are no specific physical therapy provisions.

• Administrative and Tax Burdens – Many of the administrative and tax burdens could hinder the ability of many small private practices to continue their practice.

I encourage you to utilize this summary as well as APTA’s webpage as guidance while interpreting the new health care reform law. Many of the specifics of the legislation will be spelled out as the legislation is implemented “at the discretion of the secretary”.

I hope you have enjoyed the spring months so far, and are ready for the dog days of summer just around the corner. The Louisiana delegation will be attending APTA House of Delegates in June and the LPTA Executive Committee will be meeting later in the summer to continue to manage LPTA affairs. Please continue to stay in touch through our website and let us know how we can continue to serve you, the member.

In Memoriam
Ann Adams Reeder

Ann Adams Reeder, 56, died of leukemia Thursday, March 4, 2010, in the company of her family at her home near Austin, Texas. Ann served as teacher, mentor and valued colleague in the academic programs at Wayne State University and the LSU Health Science Center in New Orleans and later in Baton Rouge.

Publicity Simplicity
&
LPTA Spotlight

Will return in the next issue of the Bayou Bulletin!
WESTAFF Advertisement

Looking for Physical Therapists. Open positions in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Katy, Texas. No Experience necessary. Open to Grad Students. Starting salary $65K-$70K. Also, looking for an Occupational Therapist to work in New Iberia; splinting experience helpful. $65K D.O.E. Please contact Cheryl Guillory at Westaff, 337-993-5737 or cguillory@weststaff.com.
Shreveport District Report

Everyone up in North Louisiana would like to thank those of you from the South for attending the Spring Meeting up here at Diamond Jacks in Bossier City, LA. We love it when you journey to our neck of the woods and we do apologize for the unexpected snow. It was a great meeting with a wonderful turnout! Thanks to LPTA for bringing Dr. Mark Cornwall here for an enlightening program on the foot and ankle, and for hosting a great meeting.

On Wednesday, March 31, in the gym at LSUHSC, there was a well-attended Shreveport District meeting with approximately 60 people present. There were PT students, PTA students, and PT’s from the community present. We discussed matters at the national, state, and local level, and the focus was on education of attendees on how APTA and LPTA works for them on a daily basis. Some lively discussion regarding La. PT Board issues and the upcoming House of Delegates ensued. It was good to see some new faces in the crowd. Ideas and plans for the upcoming two years were discussed. All in all, it was a good meeting!

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Ward, PT
Shreveport District Chair

We would like to introduce our new officers for the upcoming year:

President: Ashley Henk – LSUHSC-Shreveport
Vice-President: Michelle Jones – LSUHSC-NO
Secretary: Blakelee Soileau – LSUHSC-Shreveport
Treasurer: Kerri Chatelain - LSUHSC-NO
Student Delegate: Mattie Pontiff - LSUHSC-NO
Director: Krista Koonce – LSUHSC-Shreveport

We all look forward to serving you this year!

Don’t forget to register for Annual Conference this year. It is being held in Boston, MA, June 16-19. Register by April 21 to get the early-bird special!
Medicare Fee Schedule Fix Extended to May 31

Following passage by the Senate and House of Representatives President Obama signed the Continuing Extension Act (HR 4851), which temporarily prevents the 21.2% Medicare physician fee schedule payment cut by extending 2009 rates until May 31. The law is retroactive to April 1. Consequently, effective immediately, claims with dates of service April 1 and later, which were being held by Medicare contractors, are being released for processing and payment. Statutory payment floors still apply and, therefore, clean electronic claims cannot be paid before 14 calendar days after the date they are received by Medicare contractors (29 calendar days for clean paper claims). HR 4851 addresses other key expiring provisions such as unemployment insurance and COBRA benefits.

Call for Nominations

The Nomination Committee is now accepting nominations for candidates for the following offices: Vice President, Treasurer and one Delegate.

Please submit your nomination to Anna Means by Friday, July 16, 2010. Candidates will be asked to submit a candidate statement, which will be published in the July/August issue of the Bayou Bulletin. Please contact Anna Means at ameans@edgephysicaltherapy.com or 318-XXX-XXXX if you would like to make a nomination, self-nominate, or if you have any questions or need further information on these positions. We welcome and encourage your participation and look forward to a full ballot.

STAR PHYSICAL THERAPY ADVERTISEMENT

STAR Physical Therapy in Covington is hiring a Physical Therapist and PTA.

We are multi-site, local physical therapist-owned company. We are mainly orthopedic outpatients and are locally respected for our high quality of care and great working environment.

Please email resume to matt@starfitnesscenter.com or call (985) 893-2845

Calling for Pictures!

Please send in your pictures from any Spring Recreational Sporting Events like the Crescent City Classic, golf tournaments, softball tournaments etc.!!!
Saints Pictures

Partners in Physical Therapy
Lake Charles, LA

Member News

Philippe Veeters, PT and Mirjam Maassen, PT adopted Fleur, a chocolate lab, into the family. She has become the new mascot of Dutch Physical Therapy and loves to welcome patients at the front desk of our Bankers Avenue office.

Danny P. Landry PTA was appointed by Governor Jindal to the Physical Therapy Board on April 5, 2010 for a three year term. He had served as an Advisory Committee Member to the Physical Therapy Board for the past two years. Danny earned an Associates Degree in Applied Science from the Community College of Rhode Island in 1993. He graduated with Highest Honors in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Danny holds a Physical Therapist Assistant License in Louisiana and Texas and is a member of the (APTA) American Physical Therapy Association, (LPTA) Louisiana Physical Therapy Association and has been appointed to serve on the Advisory Panel of Physical Therapist Assistants for the APTA for the term of July 2010 thru June 2013. He is the owner of Residential Rehab Services Incorporated since its inception in Sept 1997. Danny has practiced as a Physical Therapist Assistant for the past 17 years and is currently practicing in the Lake Charles area. He enjoys being involved in his profession and is honored to have received the appointment to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board.

Send us your membership news! We would love to put it in the next issue of the Bayou Bulletin.
Thank you to our 2010 Spring Meeting Sponsors. Especially Gentiva for being a Breakfast Sponsor!!

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Membership Matters

Thanks to the APTA and LPTA, I have just returned from a wonderful conference in Alexandria, VA on Membership. Representatives from chapters and sections as far away as Hawaii were present and altogether 66 were in attendance. APTA did a fine job of hosting, with wonderfully motivating speakers and concrete ideas for membership recruitment and retention. The beauty of the weekend was the ability to network with others about what works in their state regarding membership.

Two things stand out in my mind that are worth sharing here in this short column:

1. Membership is everyone's business. That is the beauty of our "Each One, Reach One" campaign, as we utilize you, the members, to reach out to others in our profession who have not yet decided to become members. We see each member of the profession as a potential member who simply needs an invitation from a member to join us. There is strength (and delegates) in numbers!

2. Everyone is already a member. Wow! This was so enlightening to me and it is so true! Those who are licensed and practicing in our profession already reap the benefits and rewards of the advocacy and attention to reimbursement that APTA and LPTA provide. But, here's the rub: some choose not to support us (at this time) in our professional organization. This is a great talking point as those of you who are members reach out to others to encourage them to join or re-join.

Louisiana is poised to improve our overall membership, and I now have some concrete areas on which to focus. From students to lifetime members, from PT's to PTA's, we all can help. But, I need each and everyone's help to achieve the goals I have set for the coming years regarding membership!

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Ward, PT
Membership Chair for LPTA
MsRed345@aol.com
(318) 470-9427
Spring Meeting Pictures
To: APTA Component Leader
From: David W. Emerick, PTA, BBA, Chief Delegate, PTA Caucus; Jerry Allgood, PTA, PTA Caucus Representative, LA
Re: One Vote at the Component Level of APTA
Date: March 17, 2010

At the 2010 APTA House of Delegates (HOD), the PTA Caucus will put forth a motion to amend APTA’s by-laws pertaining to voting privileges at the component level. Specifically, the motion will promote the provision of one vote for PTA members at the chapter/section level. Currently, APTA bylaws limit the PTA member to ½ vote for the election of leaders and input on issues affecting the chapter/section.

Passing this RC will:
• Provide PTA members with one vote as they seek to responsibly elect their component leaders and address issues affecting the chapter/section;
• Provide the PTA anonymity in the voting process;
• Simplify the voting process by having one vote for all members; and
• Continue the process of integration and help restore the positive regard of many PTAs toward the Association.

Passing this RC will not:
• Change the clinical relationship between the physical therapist and PTA; or
• Change the current voting process at the national level.

When considering this proposed change in bylaws, it may be useful to consider the following:
• The history: PTAs were initially granted temporary APTA membership in 1973, which did not include voting rights. In 1975, the HOD established a PTA (“affiliate”) membership category and after considerable debate, ½ vote at the component level was the agreed upon compromise.
• No other known health professional organization discriminates their member groups through inequitable voting rights.
• PTAs serving in positions of leadership within APTA (eg, component board of directors, APTA appointed advisory panels, committees, and task forces, PT-PAC, PT Foundation) and with external groups, including state licensing boards and the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) exercise one vote responsibly and for the good of the profession and the public.
• There is no evidence that membership dues or level of education for any of APTA’s membership designations have been linked to voting privileges. Dues for each membership designation appear to be determined according to earning potential.
• PTAs are equal stakeholders in the success of the profession for their economic future.
• The PTA Caucus has consistently supported APTA’s mission, goals, and vision as evidenced by the Caucus’s mission statement:
  “The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Caucus, serving with integrity and responsiveness, will be the voice of the physical therapist assistant in meeting the vision, goals and objectives of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the profession.”

In conclusion, the PT and PTA work together to promote the recovery, health, and wellness of our patients/clients and the public. We are One in Mission, One in Vision, One Member, and One Vote. It is time for physical therapists and PTAs to take the next step within the Association; to live our brand and ‘Move Forward.’

Respectfully, thank you.
Jerry Allgood, PTA, PTA Caucus Representative, LA
337-654-2575(cell), 337-993-1217(home), jerryallgood@hotmail.com
PT Day at the Capitol