

# WHO WE ARE

*The Private Practice Section (PPS) of the American Physical Therapy Association represents more than 4,200 physical therapists who practice in independent businesses. Their businesses are both large and small, some with single locations, some with many locations across multiple states and regions. These therapists compete with rehabilitation therapy delivered in hospitals, nursing homes, and doctors' offices on the basis of cost, quality, and convenience. When appropriate, PPS works with stakeholders with whom our priorities align.*

## Legislative & Advocacy Priorities for the 116th Congress

PPS is committed to pursuing the following legislative and regulatory priorities:

### Medicare Issues



- Achieve legislation that allows physical therapists to privately contract with Medicare patients
- Influence payment reform proposals, and continue to fight for fair and equitable payment for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in private practice across the healthcare continuum
- Continue to pursue the expansion of the *locum tenens* provision of Medicare to include physical therapists practicing in all communities
- Eliminate administrative barriers for Medicare beneficiaries to optimize access to physical therapists for treatment
- Pursue favorable Medicare standards for supervision of assistive personnel across physical therapy practice settings
- Pursue legislation that promotes transparency, patient access, quality of care, and patient choice of both providers and settings for Medicare and Medicare Advantage beneficiaries
- Address and mitigate the negative effects associated with physician self-referral
- Oppose increased privatization of the Medicare program in order to decrease confusion in the marketplace and protect consumers

### Telehealth and Technology



- Achieve legislation that requires Medicare and federal health plans to provide parity for both coverage and payment for physical therapist services through telehealth
- Evaluate opportunities for the inclusion of physical therapists in legislation that promotes the use of technological innovations in healthcare
- Promote legislation that supports the utilization of electronic health records by physical therapists

## Health Coverage Principals



- Promote physical therapy as an essential health benefit in all insurance plans
- Pursue elimination of arbitrary limits to access and obstruction for payment for services provided by physical therapists
- Address and mitigate the negative effects of market control on physical therapists in private practice and their patients, including opposing networks and policies that unreasonably limit patient access and choice
- Support consumer opportunities and choice by increasing transparency of coverage across all payers and healthcare provider pricing
- Advocate to retain guaranteed access to insurance for those with pre-existing conditions as well as protect the ban on rescission for those who do have coverage

## Population Health



- Promote physical therapists as providers of preventative and wellness services as well as managers of chronic disease
- Pursue legislation to require physical therapist services to be a mandated covered service under Medicaid
- Support policies that empower physical therapists to evaluate and support healthy and independent lifestyles and to promote mobility throughout the lifespan

## Small Business Issues



- Advocate for standardized processes to promote administrative simplification
- Address physical therapy workforce issues including cost of education; pursue federal programs to reduce student loan burden
- Monitor, respond to, and participate in tax reform efforts to benefit physical therapists in private practice
- Support opportunities for small businesses to purchase health insurance across state lines; advocate for the expansion of Association Health Plans and group purchasing

## Other Federal Issues



- Mandate that physical therapists are included in the medical team providing care to address concussion management, chronic pain, and social determinants of health
- Promote policy that increases opportunities for Veterans to receive outpatient services provided by physical therapists in private practice
- Support legislation that promotes the use of physical therapist services as non-pharmacological treatment options in response to the opioid crisis