

## **Relief of Administrative Burden for Physical Therapists in Medicare**

APTA Private Practice, a Section of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Supports **the Remove Duplicative Unnecessary Clerical Exchanges (REDUCE) Act (H.R. 7279)**

### **Background**

Under current Medicare Part B requirements, physical therapists and occupational therapists must submit the plan of care to the patient's physician and have it signed and returned within 30 days of the initial evaluation or treatment. This requirement is in place even if a patient arrives at the initial therapy visit with an order from that same physician. Requiring a signed plan of care is a redundant administrative burden when the physician already concluded that their patient needed physical or occupational therapy and provided an order for it. The clerical signature requirement creates unnecessary paperwork and stress for therapists as they often struggle to track down signatures before the 30 days are up.

### **The REDUCE Act (H.R. 7279)**

This legislation will streamline the plan of care by eliminating the need for the additional paperwork for those outpatient therapy services provided under a physician's order if the therapist simply submits the plan of care to the patient's referring physician within 30 days of the initial evaluation. Therapists would no longer need to obtain a signed plan of care within 30 days from the physician who referred the patient.

### **Why It's Important**

The time and resources spent by therapists and physicians in procuring a timely signature adds unnecessary cost, potentially delays essential services, and fails to contribute to improved quality of care. H.R. 7279 will help therapists concentrate more on patient care.

### **Our Request & Congressional Leads**

Please cosponsor the REDUCE ACT to relieve administrative burden in the private practice setting and allow for more focus on patient care. H.R. 7279 is being led in the House by Representatives Don Davis (D-NC-01) and Lloyd Smucker (R-PA-12).