

## Commercial Payers and the PTA Differential: What You Can Do

Commercial payers are not required to follow Medicare. However, they may elect to implement the PTA differential. In the event this occurs, APTA members and physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, student physical therapists, and student physical therapist assistants are encouraged to direct their advocacy by focusing on protecting patient access to PTA services. Watch for updates from your chapter and APTA.

Here are the things you can do to advocate against the PTA differential:

1. *Provider letters:* Write a letter to the payer addressing how this policy will affect your clinic setting and your ability to deliver care to beneficiaries. A template is available for your use. Please customize and add specific examples from your practice with a focus on patient impacts.
2. *Patient letters:* Encourage your patients that are beneficiaries to write letters expressing concern over how this policy will adversely impact their care. A template is available for you to share with patients. A patient postcard is also available.
3. *Talk to your legislator.* While legislative action may not be possible at this time, you can still notify your legislators and make them aware of this policy change and how it will negatively affect enrollee health, the delivery of physical therapy care, and cause other adverse downstream effects. The sooner and more frequently legislators hear about the PTA differential, the more likely they will be to explore action to challenge the policy.

The power of the APTA can be leveraged through action. The collective strength of our members does matter if we all advocate for our profession and the health of the patients under our care.