

# AzPTA Direct Current Monthly Newsletter - August 2010

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

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## The Direct Current Monthly E-Newsletter

August 2010

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### Welcome New APTA and AzPTA Members!

We welcome the new and transfer members below who joined the AzPTA in June and July of 2010:



**Jordan Adams**, Physical Therapist Student; **Gaury Alfaro**, Physical Therapist Student; **S. Alexis Anderson**, Physical Therapist Student; **Kaitlin Barker**, Physical Therapist Student; **Joshua Bickel**, Physical Therapist Student; **Krista Brock**, Physical Therapist Student; **Jenna Buckwalter**, Physical Therapist Student; **Brian Carlson**, Physical Therapist Student; **Heather Corbin**, Physical Therapist Student; **Daniel Crowe**, Physical Therapist Student; **Rebecca Degener**, Physical Therapist Student; **Brittany Dichraff**, Physical Therapist Student; **Katlyn Dzurina**, Physical Therapist Student; **Samer El-Awad**, Physical Therapist Student; **Jamie Falcon**, Physical Therapist Student; **Raymond Finch**, Physical Therapist Student; **Eder**



**AzPTA Members Rachel Dorsey, Amisha Klawonn and Linda Duke at the "Ask a PT" Program Airing on KAET.**

*The mission of the AzPTA is to represent and promote the profession's role in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of movement dysfunctions to enhance the health and functional abilities of the public.*

### Quick Links

[Arizona Physical Therapy Association \(AzPTA\)](#)

[AzPTA Calendar of Events](#)

[American Physical Therapy Association \(APTA\)](#)

[Arizona Board of Physical Therapy](#)

Find us on Facebook



**Garavito**, Physical Therapist Student; **Dustin Glew**, Physical Therapist Student; **Nicoleta Grigoras**, Physical Therapist Student; **Emily Grimm**, Physical Therapist Student; **Robert Hodges**, Physical Therapist Student; **Jacob Ireland**, Physical Therapist Student; **Lyndzie Jackson**, Physical Therapist Student; **Justin Jarvi**, Physical Therapist Student; **Jenna Kick**, Physical Therapist Student; **Alyson Kinzler**, Physical Therapist Student; **Kelsey Koenig**, Physical Therapist Student; **Dean Kolstad**, Physical Therapist Student; **Jaqueline Kvasnicka**, Physical Therapist Student; **Brelan Lane**, Physical Therapist Student; **Nichole Lensing**, Physical Therapist Student; **Amy Lewis**, Physical Therapist Student; **Laci Liles**, Physical Therapist Student; **Jennifer Maag**, Physical Therapist Student; **Sean Maroney**, Physical Therapist Student; **Cheri McCoy**, Physical Therapist Student; **Meghan McGuire**, Physical Therapist Student; **Krystal McKinney**, Physical Therapist Student; **Rani Menard**, Physical Therapist Assistant Student; **Erin Miller**, Physical Therapist Student; **Matthew Pecora**, Physical Therapist Student; **Ashley Phillips**, Physical Therapist Student; **Tennil Reed**, Physical Therapist Student; **Jacob Romanowski**, Physical Therapist Student; **Allison Rugg**, Physical Therapist Student; **Daniel Sanchez**, Physical Therapist Assistant Student; **Phillip Sauls**, Physical Therapist Student; **Kevin Sukowicz**, Physical Therapist Student; **Michael Tejada**, Physical Therapist Student; **Jody Tellez**, Physical Therapist Assistant Student; **Akilah Townsend, PT**; Natalie Turnage, Physical Therapist Student; **Krista Wagenknecht**, Physical Therapist Student; **Patrick Welch**, Physical Therapist Student; **Andrea Wooding**, Physical Therapist Student; **Brock Yotty**, Physical Therapist Student; **Andreas Archodakis, PT**; **Fotini Archodakis, PT**; **Eric Bloom, PT**; **Leigh Cartwright, PT**; **Michaela Gaither, PT**; **Rebecca Gauerke, PT**; **Larry Gruver, PT**; **Sienna Hess, PTA**; **Elizabeth Holthaus**, Physical Therapist Student; **Griffin Lee, PT**; **Rosemary Lucas, PT**; **Shelly Pagel**, Physical Therapist Student; **Veronica Shaw, PT**; **Moran Arad**, Physical Therapist Student; **Scott Campbell**, Physical Therapist Student; **Amanda Carper**, Physical Therapist Student; **Richard Elicio**, Physical Therapist Student; **Monica Idstein**, Physical Therapist Student; **Chelsey King**, Physical Therapist Student; **Tricia Lish**, Physical Therapist Student; **Christopher Meyer**, Physical Therapist Student; **Daniel Min**, Physical Therapist Student; **Madeline Ogles, PT**; **Alanna Perez**, Physical Therapist Assistant Student; **Kaylie Smith**, Physical Therapist Student; **Breann Suddock**, Physical Therapist Student; **Jeffrey Walker**, Physical Therapist Student; **Christian Butler**, Physical Therapist Student; **Lynn Garcia**, Physical Therapist Student; **Stephanie Johnson, PT**; **Erik Meyer**, Physical Therapist Student; **Kenneth Wutoh, PT**; **Roberta Zimmerman**, Physical Therapist Student.

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[Email us for details!](#)*

We welcome you to **YOUR** membership association!

## APTA Revised Code and Standards Are Now In Effect

Clinical ethics has been defined as "the application of ethical analysis to decision making in the care of individual patients." As a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant we make decisions every day regarding our patient's care. Our Code of Ethics is what provides the standard or rules of care that is to be adhered to in the practice of physical therapy not unlike a medical physician's adherence to the tenets of the Hippocratic Oath. Each of us has an inherent professional responsibility to know and abide by the tenets of our code. As you are aware, after years of study and careful thought the APTA has revised and released the new Code of Ethics document which went into effect July 1, 2010. This can be viewed on line at the [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org) and click under Areas of Interest>Practice> Ethical and Legal Resources>APTA Code of Ethics. We encourage each practitioner to print a copy of the revised Code and keep at a convenient location for frequent perusal.

As your AzPTA Ethics Committee we will periodically provide and update through the APTAN, articles that elucidate potential unethical practice scenarios that might assist clinicians to come into greater compliance/ adherence with our Code of Ethics. Please feel free to contact any member of the Ethics Committee for any questions or recommendations.

Respectfully, **Tom Curtis, PT, DSc, OCS - Chair; Mike Johnson, PT - Member; and Dave Hancock, PT - Member**

## BIGGEST THREAT TO PT Reimbursement THAT WE HAVE SEEN IN YEARS

We are always asking you to write your congressmen. This is another plea. CMS issued a proposed rule June 25, 2010, the multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR), updating 2011 payment rates for outpatient physical therapy services. If the rule proposes it would result in significant reductions in payment for PT services. Specifically, CMS proposes to make full payment for the therapy service or unit with the highest practice expense values and payment of 50% of the expense component for the 2nd and subsequent procedures or units. If MPPR is implemented we will be looking at about a 12-13% reduction in what we can bill Medicare. That is on top of any other reductions like the ones from the SGR formula. This is such a draconian cut in reimbursement, that it very probably would cause some practices to shut down.

CMS must hear from each of us and all of our staff therapists so they know how badly this policy would affect our practices. Remember that this might affect more than just Medicare as other payers follow their lead. CMS must hear from everyone if we are going to be successful in blocking the MPPR. [Click here](#) for more guidance and information.

## Scholarship Fund Silent Auction Reminder

R U connected to someone that might be willing to donate some SWAG for the Silent Auction? Perhaps a weekend get-away at their time share or cabin; tickets for the theater or sporting event; a fine dining experience; or a chance to golf with a celebrity? If so, we would love to auction your item(s) at the 2010 Silent Auction benefitting Student Scholarship. Last year you helped raise \$3200 for Arizona PT and PTA students, the question is, can we do it again? Of course we can! This year the auction will be Friday October 1st through Saturday October 2nd at the [Fall State Meeting](#). We are currently procuring items for the auction. Please contact Yvonne Harrison at [ymp taz@gmail.com](mailto:ymp taz@gmail.com) if you would like to donate.

## Victory in Illinois Against Referral for Profit

In a significant victory for the physical therapy profession, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn on July 23 vetoed Senate Bill 2635, which would have amended the fee-splitting section of the Illinois PT Practice Act by adding language to exempt employment of physical therapists by other health care providers. If enacted, the legislation would have negatively affected efforts by the Illinois Physical Therapy Association to combat referral for profit in physical therapy and physician-ownership of PT services (POPTS).

Despite strong opposition to SB 2635 from the Illinois Chapter, the bill passed the legislature and was sent to the Governor May 25. However, the Illinois Chapter continued its grassroots advocacy efforts with chapter members contacting the governor's office urging him to veto the legislation; the Illinois State Medical Society lobbied in support of SB 2635.

## AzPTA Launches Members Mentoring Members Program

Many PT and PTA new graduates begin their careers not realizing the questions that they will have, nor do they know where to turn for answers. Experienced clinicians are willing to provide guidance to their more novice colleagues, but how do they make those connections? To address these needs, the AzPTA is currently matching PT and PTA mentors with prospective proteges. For more information on this program, visit our [Members Mentoring Members page](#) on the AzPTA

website. We are interested in hearing your mentorship success stories!  
Email them to Membership Committee Member [Jane Jackson, PTA](#).

## MedPAC Report to the Congress: Aligning Incentives in Medicare

A recent report to Congress (MedPAC Report) highlighted the rapid growth of physical therapy services provided in physicians' offices and presented evidence that shows that some of the ancillary services ordered by physicians are not clinically appropriate. The MedPAC report also discussed the inherent financial incentives that are created by physician self-referral of ancillary services. Read more about this [at this link](#).

## Ask An Arizona Physical Therapy Expert a Raging Success

Here's an update on what your APTAaz friends have done in an effort to increase public awareness of Physical Therapy in our State. On July 14, 2010 the viewing audience of Arizona's KAET Channel 8 benefited from the likes of 14 local Physical Therapists all of whom spoke directly to over 200 Arizona callers seeking answers from "Ask a Physical Therapy Expert". From 5:30pm to 9:30pm it was a ton of fun talking to our community one phone call after another about "us", the Arizona Physical Therapist. Program host Ted Simons spoke to, **Kay Wing, PT, DPT, GCS, NCS; Cynthia Driskell, PT, OCS; and Pamela Bosch, PT PhD**. If you would like to view the program yourself you will find a link on [the AzPTA website](#).

Stayed tuned....Very, VERY soon there will be another opportunity to join forces with APTAaz, this time the focus will include a direct marketing of your own clinic.

Your PR Chair, **Leslie Clements, PT**

## AHCCCS Proposes Limits to Outpatient Physical Therapy Visits to 15 Per Year

The Arizona Physical Therapy Association provided written and oral testimony at the AHCCCS rule-making hearing on June 22, 2010. No response has been received regarding our concerns about the proposed changes to the adult benefit package as outlined in State Plan Amendment #10-006. The plan specifies that "outpatient physical therapy is limited to 15 visits per contract year."

During our comments, we asked the AHCCCS administration to consider the needs of members and allow for additional physical therapy services above the 15 visit limit based on diagnosis, individual evaluation and clinical judgment. We continue to ask for your consideration of an exception process to allow additional rehabilitation for AHCCCS members who experience multiple traumatic injuries, undergo complex surgeries, or have complications related to significant co-morbidities. An exception process could be established with review by the medical director, a utilization review committee, or through application by the physical therapy provider. A number of models for an exception process currently exist by public and private payers of physical therapy services.

Please refer to [this email alert](#) sent previously to AzPTA members that describes in more detail this proposal, and send your comments and feedback relative to the proposal to [Cynthia Driskell, PT, GCS, State Government Affairs Committee Chair](#).

## PTA Special Interest Group "STEPPING OUT FOR KIDS"

The PTA Special Interest Group (SIG) kicked off its First Annual Shoe Drive, 'Steppin' Out for Kids', on Saturday, August 7, 2010 at the PTA Update. Registrants for the Update were asked to bring a pair of athletic shoes and socks to the seminar. The shoes will be distributed

to children living in a shelter for victims of domestic abuse, the New Life Center in Goodyear, AZ. This initial shoe drive will be followed up by PTAs collecting more shoes from their place of employment for the following 8 weeks, with the drive culminating at the Fall State Meeting October 1-2 for the final collection. Shoes and socks collected during the second phase of the drive will also be delivered to children in similar situations. The exact locations have not been determined. We are looking forward to a lot of support from the whole Physical Therapy Community for this very worthwhile cause.

## Upcoming 2010 & 2011 AzPTA Events and Other Announcements

October 1 & 2 - **Fall State Meeting** - Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix

November 6 - **Student Conclave** - ATSU in Mesa

December 7 - **Practice Management Update** (location TBA)

January 29, 2011 - **Ortho/Neuro Update** - ATSU in Mesa

May 6 & 7, 2011 - **Spring State Meeting** (location TBA)

Check the [AzPTA website](#) frequently for details on all of our 2010 and 2011 programs and events!

## John Heick Chosen for the APTA Emerging Leader Award

The Board of Directors of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has informed **John Heick, PT, DPT** and AzPTA First Vice President that he has been selected as a 2010 recipient of the Emerging Leader Award. John is one of 21 members who were nominated by their component leadership to receive this honor and he will be recognized in the October 2010 issue of PT in Motion Magazine. The Emerging Leader Award was established to annually honor individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary service to the profession and APTA early in their careers. Here's an excerpt from his nomination submission:

*"John is described by his colleagues as "the first to volunteer" for additional duties and someone who "gets things done." He acts as a "quiet leader" who sets an example and exhibits humility during his efforts. He pushes for higher standards but, most importantly, sets high expectations for himself. In fulfilling his duties, John makes the effort to find creative ways to advance the profession and the chapter has benefited from his innovative ideas. - Michael T. Lebec, PT, Ph.D., Nominating Committee Chair*

Congratulations, John!

## Card Check Legislation: Are You in Favor or Not?

If you are not familiar with the current card check legislation in Arizona, here is a brief update. There are basically two requirements for labor unions to form:

1. The union must get at least 30% of the employees to sign petition cards stating they want to form the union.
2. A secret ballot election must occur where a majority of the employees vote for the union.

Card check would eliminate the second step and increase the first threshold to 50%. Opponents (typically Republicans) of card check believe that elimination of the secret ballot provides workers with no protection against intimidation or coercion from union workers who distribute and collect the cards. Proponents (typically Democrats) argue that the secret ballot is an unnecessary second step workers must go through to form a union. Hope that helps provide some information.

The National Foundation of Independent Business and chambers of commerce have opposed card check legislation as they believe it hurts small business. Quite a few healthcare organizations support the bill (opposing card check), some included the Arizona Hospital and HealthCare Association and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Thank you for supporting YOUR professional membership association!

**Sincerely,**

Kay Wing, President  
Arizona Physical Therapy Association

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