



**BOARD REPORT**

<b>Office, Committee or SIG: Policy &amp; Payment</b>	
<b>Submitted by: Ellen R Strunk</b>	<b>Date: July 26, 2020</b>
<b>Please list your accomplishments since the last report:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May to November 2019: Worked with BCBS of Alabama to mitigate the impact of their new Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction Policy. Result: MPPR did go through, but the Alabama Physical Therapy Fee Schedule was updated for the first time in 20 years. Most providers were projected to see relatively no change in their revenues as a result.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dec 2019: Webinar for members on the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule for 2020; opened it up to other components which potentially brought in revenue to the Chapter.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jan 2020: Webinar for members on the Home Health Patient Driven Grouper Model, effective 1/1/2020; opened it up to other components which potentially brought in revenue to the Chapter.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● March 4, 2020: Served on Workgroup to plan for and facilitate the 2020 PT DAY AT THE CAPITOL to lobby for the Direct Access bill.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● March 2020: Webinar for members on COVID-19, the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and the first Interim Final Rule released by CMS.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● April 2020: Advocated to Alabama Medicaid and BCBS of AL to allow physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to provide services via telehealth due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Both organizations continue to allow this, and BCBS of AL recently announced they would continue through December 31, 2020.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ongoing:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Serve as liaison to the ALAPTA Governmental Affairs Committee and attended conference calls from September 2019 through May 2020.</li> <li>○ Monitor relevant payment and policy issues and information shared by APTA and pass it on to ALAPTA to inform members: this year includes: TRICARE updates with PTAs becoming approved providers; extensions of telehealth waivers by BCBS and Alabama Medicaid; Palmetto GBA payment issues; United Health Care updates related to LBP; Change to the CCI edits in Jan 2020, Education on new Dry Needling codes, ongoing updates related to the PHE.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	