

MAY 2020

A Message From the APTA New Mexico President

One Can Only Go Half-Way into The Darkest Forest...Then You Are Coming Out the Other Side.

Every morning I look at this saying on a piece of artwork on my wall and consider, where am I in this journey? We all have had experiences in our lives that take us places we would not otherwise have chosen, but rare is it when we are all going together along a path through a dark forest due to circumstances beyond our control. Only patches of light now and then burst through openings in the trees to shed some light on an opportunity or a fresh loss. What is our capacity to endure? What will the other side look like when we finally come to the edge of the forest?



This COVID-19 era will forever be a shadow on 2020, an extended “moment in time” during which PT/PTA practice in New Mexico has endured rapid change with accelerated learning curves for all. NM Public Health Orders have challenged us weekly since mid-March to consider: Are our physical therapy practices essential or non-essential? Is our outpatient physical therapy clinic a “walk-in health care facility”? Which PT services are essential and which could be considered non-urgent for rescheduling three months later? Do we have a COVID-19 plan as we choose for our clinics to remain open or to re-open per Public Health Orders? Do we close to allow for hospital inpatient priority access to personal protective equipment? Do we remain open for those consumers whose conditions might lead to further impairment without our services? Can we provide telehealth under our Practice Act? Can we provide tele-rehabilitation across state lines? Will private payers reimburse for telehealth in New Mexico? What will the virtual APTA House of Delegates look like? Do we provide for a virtual APTA New Mexico Fall Conference?

These and other questions have been at the center of discussions had by APTA New Mexico leadership, members and non-members throughout the state. Letters have been written to the Governor requesting clarity on language of definitions within the executive orders and to the NM PT Licensure Board regarding a statement on telehealth and PT/PTA practice in NM. We have yet to receive a formal statement from the NM PT Licensing Board, but physical therapy is a named health care profession in the Telemedicine Act in New Mexico, and PTAs can practice telehealth under the supervision of a licensed PT provider. In April, I received a personal phone call from a state representative from the NM Human Services Department, noting the high frequency of letters received from physical therapists by the Governor which has resulted in more specific language addressing outpatient health care clinics and listed physical therapy in specific Medicaid billing procedures. Governor Lujan-Grisham was heard during a televised press-conference stating that “physical therapists are providing tele-therapy.”

Before this COVID-19 crisis, we requested a formal agenda item at the next NM PT Licensing Board meeting to discuss workforce data collection by geographical area to assist with advocacy in preparing for future legislation to improve access to PT by consumers in rural NM. We continue to advocate for telehealth reimbursement and payment in New Mexico and are working closely with APTA to update the status of payment from third party payers in NM. We celebrate the CMS ruling allowing PTAs to perform telehealth and bill under the supervising PT in private practice settings during this COVID-19 period and continue to advocate for telehealth approval in CMS guidance for outpatient hospital PT settings. Please see the coronavirus page on the [APTA New Mexico website](#) as a resource for all updates and links to resources about telehealth.

It is with compassion and sympathy that we recognize the loss that has come from this experience through stories unfolding. We grieve the loss of life of friends or family members and offer sincere sympathy to members who may have themselves suffered through COVID-19 illness or cared for family members amidst the threat or reality of life lost. We acknowledge the loss of wages from job loss or furlough impacting physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in all NM practice settings. We grieve the loss to members and to consumers resulting from the closure of physical therapy practices that have provided services to New Mexicans for over thirty years. Please share your stories with us as we want to hear the impact of COVID-19 on you and your practice.

Despite our loss, we are seeing some light in the forest. We are a Chapter in transition. We are looking ahead for opportunities. We are no longer the NM Chapter of APTA. We are APTA New Mexico! We have a new brand and a new name with a new website soon to come. We are emerging from this experience with new PT practice delivery, new technology platforms, and life lessons learned. With loss, comes opportunity. Uncertainty leads to adaptation and a shift to a new normal. Though we have a long way to go, we will emerge from this experience stronger and with new connections and resources. We look forward to 2021 and the planned APTA Centennial celebrations and remember that our profession evolved from similar challenges in world-wide health through the need for rehabilitation services during the polio epidemic. Let us all find comfort in the knowledge that we will get through this together and remember 2020 as a year of evolution! Let us know how we can help you through this journey. Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Genia Devenport, PT, MS
President, APTA New Mexico

Rebranding - From NMAPTA to APTA New Mexico

- Our Chapter is embracing APTA's strategic plan objective to embody the APTA mission and vision through an integrated brand strategy.
- By unifying our association branding, we will create clarity for our members and potential members. It will be easier to recognize APTA's collective offerings and value.
- The unified brand will help us provide a more consistent member experience, strengthening our community in the spirit of APTA's mission.
- Rebranding is about much more than a new look or logo. Our brand will encourage us to act for impact, better leveraging our state-level expertise on behalf of members and potential members.
- The profession is evolving and so are we. Our new brand represents an investment in the future to maximize our impact.
- We're sending a message that symbolizes our unity and ability to work together for the benefit of the profession and the public it serves.
- By creating a more unified brand, we strengthen our voice and our ability to represent and advocate for our members, the physical therapy profession, and the people we serve.
- APTA national is launching a new brand in the summer of 2020 with the launch of a new APTA.org.
- Our new website will launch this summer.
- Other Chapters and Sections also can adopt the new brand and may reveal their new look before or after APTA does so. APTA hopes to align as many components as possible before the end of the association's centennial year of 2021, but participation in the unified brand is voluntary.

[Visit our Website](#)

2020 NMAPTA Annual Fall Conference Goes Virtual

Education Committee Co-Chairs: Marybeth Barkocy, PT, DPT, Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Pediatric Physical Therapy and Janet Popp, PT

This year, our annual conference will be virtual. It is scheduled for Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20. Originally the conference was scheduled to take place on the UNM campus, but the future is uncertain due to COVID social distancing requirements.

With this in mind, we are excited about the possibilities to engage a wider audience and facilitate interprofessional learning. In addition to PT CEUs, we will apply for OT CEUs as well as market to the nursing community. We plan to have a virtual Exhibit Hall and affordable session pricing. Sessions will be archived for one month to accommodate registrants who may want to review course content or live in rural areas with intermittent high speed internet.



SAVE THE DATE

2020 APTA NEW MEXICO VIRTUAL FALL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2020

PHYSICAL THERAPY MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS AT
RISK FOR AND DIAGNOSED WITH VENOUS
THROMBOEMBOLISM (VTE)

PEDIATRIC VESTIBULAR DISORDERS: MAKING
VESTIBULAR FUNCTION FUN!

THE EVALUATION, TREATMENT AND PROGRESSION
OF MECHANICAL LOW BACK PAIN

ONCOLOGY REHAB: ASSESSING PATIENTS
THROUGHOUT THEIR CANCER JOURNEY

2020 APTA House of Delegates - Update From the New Mexico Delegation

The 2020 House of Delegates and PTA Caucus from June 1-3 are meeting virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. New Mexico is being represented at the House by three delegates and our president is serving as Alternate Delegate. We also have a New Mexico PTA Caucus rep this year at the PTA Caucus. All of us, plus Karen Lovely, PT, DPT as a past New Mexico delegate, have been virtually regularly meeting in preparation for the House.

We will be interviewing and voting to elect national leadership. Candidate statements and CVs are available online [HERE](#).

There are four positions to be elected this year: Treasurer (1 to be elected), Speaker of the House of Delegates (1), Director (3) and Nominating Committee (2).

There are 41 main motions this year to review. Some of them will likely be postponed until 2021, as priorities are set with our first virtual House and the extra work going on in our practices and personal lives adjusting to COVID-19. The entire motion list is available on the www.APTA.org Hub and individual motions [HERE](#).

Some of the motions to be discussed:

- 1) RC 2-20: Removing Membership Dues from the APTA bylaws
- 2) RC 6-20: Allowing Section/Academy delegates to vote in the House
- 3) RC 11-20: Support of Environmentally Responsible Practice
- 1) RC 18-20: Recruiting and Hiring Internationally Educated PTs
- 2) RC 22-20: Practice and Business Financial Arrangements for PTs
- 3) RC 23-20: Role of the PT and APTA in Sleep Health
- 4) RC 24-20: Role of the PT and APTA in Behavioral & Mental Health
- 5) RC 26 & 27-20: Financial Transparency CAPTE-Accredited Programs
- 6) RC 28 & 29-20: Workforce Planning
- 7) RC 30 & 31-20: Emergency Physical Therapist Practice including outside the ED
- 8) RC 35-20: Scope & Impact of Uncompensated PT Services

A report with additional info from your delegation is available [HERE](#).

We appreciate your feedback and thoughts on the above candidates and motions, as we represent you at the virtual House and PTA Caucus.

Chief Delegate

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An Update From the APTA New Mexico Payment Chair

COVID-19

The All-Member COVID-19 Hub Community is Now Available on the [APTA Website](#).

All members will now see the community when they log into APTA Communities. Members are encouraged to initiate discussion on topics of their choosing. If you're not familiar with how to post, tutorials on using the Communities platform are available on the [APTA Hub Community home page](#).

TELEHEALTH

Are you still confused about the different Telehealth Models? Here's a helpful article from the APTA website explaining the different Telehealth options.

Modalities That PTs and PTAs Can Use During the Public Health Emergency

<http://www.apta.org/Telehealth/COVID-19/Modalities>

FREE WEBINARS

In collaboration with the The Academy of Acute Care Physical Therapy, the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy, the Academy of Clinical Electrophysiology & Wound Management, and the Home Health, Geriatrics, and Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Sections, HPA The Catalyst brings you:

COVID-19 Expert Panel: You've Got Clinical Questions, Let's See if We Have Answers

Saturday, May 23, 2020

9:00 am MT

2 hour duration

Members and Non-Members: FREE

[Register Today!](#)

COVID-19: Implications for Physical and Occupational Therapy in the Acute Care Setting - Putting Evidence into Clinical Practice

Saturday, May 23, 2020

1:00 pm MT

2 hour duration

Members and Non-Members: FREE

[Register Today!](#)

Please only register if you plan to attend the live webinar. The recording of this webinar will be available on Tuesday, May 26 on our [COVID-19 page](#).

New Mexico Senior Games Have Been Canceled

Thank you to all of you who signed up early to provide the Senior Athlete Fitness Exam (SAFE) at NMSU in June. Unfortunately, due to safety reasons connected to COVID-19, the 2020 New Mexico Senior Games are cancelled for this summer. There is more info on their website [HERE](#).

Please look for future announcements to participate in upcoming NM Senior Games, with plans to return to NMSU for the next two years.

Pediatric Vestibular Special Interest Group (SIG) Petition

Statement of Purpose:

We are requesting the formation of a Pediatric Vestibular Special Interest Group (SIG) to promote collaboration, resource sharing and networking for providers serving this patient population throughout New Mexico and the surrounding area. The formation of this SIG will facilitate an effective means to gather as a group and to promote knowledge sharing and best practice between different healthcare professionals.

If the petition receives interest from at least 2% of APTA New Mexico membership, the Board of Directors will review the Statement of Purpose and Petition and vote on approval. The final approval will be by all APTA New Mexico members in attendance at the Virtual Business Meeting in September.



PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO SIGN THE PETITION

Thank You for Being a Member of APTA New Mexico!



