



# Southeast District Newsletter

Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association



July 2012

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## SED District Activities & Update



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SED District Chair  
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The big news in the Southeast District (SED) is the upcoming [first annual district Combined Sections Meeting](#) (CSM). We are excited to bring this educational and networking event to the district. The meeting is modeled after the APTA CSM, which brings together thousands of PT professionals from all practice settings for a stimulating week of learning, making new friends and reconnecting with old friends. It is a thrilling atmosphere to see so many dedicated PTs from all over the country united by our passion for our patients and our profession. On a more modest scale, we want to bring this same passion to our district. Our hope is to grow the meeting each year and make this a "can't miss" event for years to come.

The [2013 SED CSM](#) is going to be held Saturday, April 20th at Thomas Jefferson University, Alumni Hall, 1020 Locust Streets in Philadelphia, PA. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all registrants. PTs, PT Assistants and students are welcome. Non-members are welcome to attend as well. We hope exposure to this activity will encourage more non-members to join. All proceeds from the event are being donated to the PPTA Advocacy Fund. Many thanks to Sue Wainright, Chair of the PT Department at TJU for her invaluable help in securing the Jefferson facility.

[Act 38 regulations](#) are now in place, which require continuing education for licensure. The district CSM will provide up to 4.0 Pennsylvania State Board approved contact hours. Registration fees are low, so the value of the contact hours you can obtain is going to be high. That alone is an excellent reason to attend. In addition, you will have great networking opportunities and a chance to learn from experts in the profession.

Registration will open at 7:30 am. The program begins at 8:20 am with a Keynote Address from Mike Johnson, PT, PhD, Division Director, Bayada Home Health. Dr. Johnson's s entire list of credentials is too long to list here, but knowing him, we will hear an entertaining, provocative, visionary and motivating keynote address. Educational sessions are scheduled from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm. There will be two morning sessions and two afternoon educational sessions. There will be an exhibit hall and poster presentations during the lunch break from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm.

This is an excellent opportunity for exhibitors to gain access to members and students. If you or your company would like to exhibit in the lunch time exhibit hall, please contact Joe Ruhl at [Jruhl@excelphysicaltherapy.com](mailto:Jruhl@excelphysicaltherapy.com) for more information.

Watch your email for more information about the speakers, sessions and registration. Note that there is a

discount for early registration. In addition, due to space constraints, registration may be closed, so you are encouraged to register early. Food, education, networking opportunities, seeing old friends and making new ones - you don't want to miss this!

## Legislative Update

## Medicare News

Congressional action in January extended the therapy cap exception process and manual review process for 1 year. Without further action this will once again expire on December 31, 2013 and we will be left with a hard cap. Legislation to repeal the cap once and for all has been introduced in the Senate (S367) and House (HR713)-in part by Representative Jim Gerlach of PA's 6th District! Members are urged to contact their elected officials in Congress and urge them to co-sponsor these important bills.

The [Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction \(MPPR\) proposal](#) is scheduled to increase from current levels of 20% in private practice and 25% in facilities to 50% for all outpatient settings effective April 1, 2013. APTA urges members to contact their legislators and ask them to find a fix to this arbitrary and flawed policy that hurts our businesses and will restrict patient access to care.

Questions regarding both of these issues should be directed to [advocacy@apta.org](mailto:advocacy@apta.org).

## Pennsylvania Co-Pay Legislation

The co-pay bill ([SB 1391](#)) made it out of committee with just one day left in the 2012 legislative session-not enough time for a vote on the floor. Members are asked to contact their State Senators and ask them to re-introduce this bill that will improve patient access to affordable health care services.

## Highmark's Physical Medicine Management Program (PMMP)

PPTA's negotiations with Highmark have yielded several positive results including removing the 4-unit per visit limit and extending "soft-implementation" until Spring 2013. But the work is not done and Highmark continues to impose an 8-visit threshold on services. Members are asked to support PPTA in its commitment to repealing this policy through a donation to the PPTA Advocacy Fund at [www.ppta.org](http://www.ppta.org). Additionally, patients and providers who have been directly affected by PMMP are urged to file complaints with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department at [www.insurance.pa.gov](http://www.insurance.pa.gov).

## Legislative Action

Stay informed! PTeam provides members with quarterly updates and alerts on all federal legislative affairs. Sign up at [www.apta.org/PTeam/](http://www.apta.org/PTeam/).

Want an easier way to advocate on behalf of our profession and your patients? Visit the Legislative Action Center at [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org). The Legislative Action Center takes the leg work out of advocacy by providing APTA members with key talking points and personalized links to their elected officials at the State and Federal levels. You can also mobilize patients and non-members by asking them to visit the Patient Action Center at [capwiz.com/amerpta/home/](http://capwiz.com/amerpta/home/). There, they will find similar information and links just by entering their zip code.

Want to make your advocacy efforts more effective? Sign up to be a Legislative Ambassador in PPTA's Legislative Action Network (LAN). The LAN provides alerts to members and helps target advocacy efforts to key legislators at the most crucial moments. Sign up at [www.ppta.org/Committees/Legislative.aspx](http://www.ppta.org/Committees/Legislative.aspx).

Shaun N. Varrecchia, PT, DPT, GCS, Cert. MDT  
SED Legislative Chair

## SED Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, March 13, 2013

### Topic: Rotator Cuff Update

This presentation will address recent developments in the evaluation and management of rotator cuff tendinopathy. Emphasis will be placed on new understanding of both intrinsic and extrinsic pathologic mechanisms that contribute to symptoms. Identification of key impairments that may be associated with tendinopathy will be reviewed as well as recent evidence and specific techniques related to both exercise and manual therapy will be discussed.

**Presenter:** Phil McClure, PT, PhD, FAPTA

Dr. McClure, Professor and Director of Post-Professional Programs, received a Bachelor of Science degree in physical therapy from Temple University, a Master of Science degree in Orthopedic Physical Therapy from the Medical College of Virginia and a



PhD in Biomedical Science from Drexel University. His research interest is the structure and function of the shoulder; his goal is to prevent shoulder injury and to develop interventions to optimize shoulder function after injury. Phil's expertise in this content area is recognized by his publication history in referred journals, numerous book chapters, and many presentations at national and international meetings. [\[MORE\]](#)

**Location:**

Arcadia University  
[Brubaker Hall](#), Rm 102  
450 S. Easton Road  
Glenside, Pennsylvania 19038

**Time:** 6:30-8:30PM

PPTA members can receive 1 contact hour for attending the educational session of the meeting. The educational session has been submitted to Pennsylvania State Board of Physical Therapy for CE review and is awaiting approval. Attendees who are not members of the PPTA can receive 1 CEU at a cost of \$50.00.

## First Annual SED CSM 2013 - April 20, 2013

Join your PT, PTA and student colleagues for this first time educational and networking event. The Southeast District (SED) Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) is modeled after the APTA CSM and is designed to be an affordable and valuable learning opportunity. See old friends, make new friends, learn, get inspired, earn CEUs, network and visit our exhibit hall. Non-members are welcome to attend. Registration fees are low. Breakfast and lunch are provided. All proceeds from the event go toward the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association Advocacy Fund.

[\*\*Get More Information!\*\*](#)

**Programming****Morning Educational Sessions (2 Contact Hours)**

Session 1. Musculoskeletal Management of the Foot/Ankle from "Inside the Box": A Functional Examination and Intervention Model  
Speakers: Steven J. Pettineo, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS and Michael E. Lehr, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS

OR

Session 2. Physical Therapy Management for Patients with Disorders of Consciousness  
Speakers: Carolyn Tassini PT, DPT, NCS and Natalie Sibley, PT, DPT, NCS

**Afternoon Educational Sessions (2 Contact Hours)**

Session 3. Strength Training: Never Too Young, Never Too Old  
Speakers: Kristen Wilson, PT, DPT, GCS and Joshua Davidson, PT, DPT, SCS, CSCS

OR

Session 4. mTBI/Concussion in Children, Adolescents & Young Adults  
Speaker: Ronald C. Savage Ed.D.

**Date:** Saturday, April 20, 2013 8:00 AM-3:00PM**Location:** Thomas Jefferson University, Alumni Hall, 1020 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

**Call for Vendors.** Do you want to reach hundreds of PTs, PTAs and students? Contact Joe Ruhl at [Jruhl@excelphysicaltherapy.com](mailto:Jruhl@excelphysicaltherapy.com) to reserve your exhibit hall space today and find out more information. The vendor brochure and application can be downloaded by clicking [HERE](#).

**Call for Poster Presentations.** The SED mini-CSM Committee invites abstracts for Research, Special Interest and Case Reports for presentation at the SED CSM to be held at Jefferson University April 20, 2013. These abstracts will be accepted for poster presentations. Abstracts which have been submitted or presented at other conferences may be presented to the SED committee and are welcomed for this event. Additional information can be downloaded by clicking [HERE](#).

welcomed for the event. Additional information can be downloaded by clicking [HERE](#).

## SED Annual Wine Tasting, Dinner & PA PT PAC Fundraiser - May 19, 2013

Gnocchi' Restaurant's Walter Viejewski will once again provide us with a 3 course meal served family style at large tables. Each course will be paired with 2 different wines. Ben Robling will teach us how each wine changes the flavor of the meal. Mark Monaco with Palateur Imports will supply the wine pairings.

Make your reservations early as seating is limited!!! Please click on the following link to [download the application for reservations](#).

**When:** Sunday May 19th, 2012 5:00pm - 8:00pm.

**Where:** [Gnocchi at 613 E. Passyunk Ave. Philadelphia 19147](#).

Parking: Free!!! In the E-Z Park lot at Passyunk and Bainbridge.

For more information, please contact Sarah Wenger, PT, DPT, OCS at 215 762 8962 or sbw28@drexel.edu.

## Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association 2013 Awards Nominations

On behalf of the District Directors, I would like to remind all members of a call for nominations.

**Service Award.** The award will honor service to the PPTA by an individual in a non-elected position, or for service by an elected official within or outside the scope of their responsibilities of office. The award may be presented to a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who has significantly contributed to the betterment of physical therapy within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Selection may represent either intensive short duration service or consistent service of long duration as a supporter of the Association and its goals and objectives. The recipient must be a member of the PPTA/APTA. The award should reflect service to the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association.

**Humanitarian Award.** The nominee must be a member of the PPTA/APTA in good standing for at least one year. Service, which must be outside the profession of physical therapy, may be of intensive short or consistent long duration.

**Fellowship Award.** The award will honor service to the PPTA by a non-physical therapist/non-physical therapist assistant who has significantly contributed to the betterment of physical therapy within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Selection may represent either intensive short duration service or consistent service of long duration as a supporter of the Association and its goals and objectives. The award should reflect service to the Physical Therapy profession within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Carlin-Michels Achievement Award.** The individual must have made an outstanding contribution to the profession of physical therapy, to the American Physical Therapy Association or its components and/or to the community. Professional achievement may be demonstrated in one or more of the following areas: (1) Patient care through direct service, consultation supervision, or administration; (2) Education through teaching, directing continuing education programs, developing or implementing teaching methods, or administering physical therapy programs; (3) Research in professionally related areas; (4) Service to the community through professional health related organizations, private or governmental agencies; or (5) Service to the APTA or its components through promotion of the organization and its goals, service in elected offices or service on committees and task forces. The recipient must be a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who is a member in good standing in the PPTA/APTA at the time of selection.

Deadline for submission of the awards is April 1, 2013. Following that date, the PPTA Awards Committee will meet to select the recipient of the awards.

Nominations should be sent to Kim Annibali, Executive Director, PPTA, 4646 Smith Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109 or via email at paptasn@aol.com. Letters of nominations must include the individual resume. Nominations will be held for a three year period. If a nominee is not selected, the Awards Committee will notify the nominator of the need to resubmit the nominee's name for consideration in subsequent years if so desired.

For further information related to the awards and the awards process, please contact Elizabeth Marine, Awards Committee Chair at elizabethmarine@yahoo.com.

The awards will be presented at the PPTA Awards Banquet on October 26th at the 2013 Annual Conference at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA.

## Resource for PTs Treating Older Adults - Medicare Functional Reporting System

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Jobs Creation Act of 2012 requires that "The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall implement, beginning on January 1, 2013, a claims-based data collection strategy that is designed to assist in reforming the Medicare payment system for outpatient therapy services ... to provide for the collection of data on patient function during the course of therapy services in order to better understand patient condition and outcomes."

This reporting and collection system requires claims for therapy services to include nonpayable G-codes and related modifiers (e.g. severity/complexity modifiers) no later than with dates of service July 1, 2013.

These G-codes and related modifiers are required on all claims for Medicare Part B therapy services regardless of who provides them: hospitals, critical access hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies (when the patient is not under a home health plan of care), physical therapy private practices, physician-owned physical therapy practices, rehab agencies, or certified outpatient rehabilitation facilities. The G-codes and modifiers are also required on all Medicare Part B therapy claims, regardless of whether it is above or below the therapy cap amount.

Upon request of its members and the APTA, the Section on Geriatrics set out to develop a list of tests and measures that clinicians working with older adults could use to assist them in meeting the functional claims reporting requirement as well as to provide supportive documentation for both the severity modifiers and intensity of therapy services. The Section on Geriatrics assembled a group of clinicians who are either currently serving on the SOG Practice Committee, the GeriEDGE Task Force, the Reimbursement Committee, or are considered experts in functional outcomes or measurement (see acknowledgements at the end of the article for a complete list).

The [report](#) includes a list of recommended measures with best evidence, practicality of use, responsiveness, and psychometrics.

Ellen R. Strunk, PT, MS, GCS, CEEAA  
SOG Federal Affairs Liaison

## About Us

This e-newsletter is a publication of the Southeast District (SED), which is a component of the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Association. The SED works cooperatively with APTA and PPTA in fostering the development and improvement of physical therapy services and education and to promote legislation to protect and promote the interests of the public and the rights of Association members. The SED seeks to encourage research, foster contributions to the professional literature and promote the development of new knowledge and use of evidenced based practice and to provide for the dissemination and exchange of information related to physical therapy.

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