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Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy

In this News Brief:

- Medicare data's pitfalls
- What big data can't tell us about healthcare
- Spotlight on member resources: Did your jurisdiction get 5 stars?
- 2016 NPTE test dates posted
- Board administrators – aptitude is at work for you!
- 2014 Board Member & Administrator Training – last chance!
- Delegate credentials for the annual meeting
- Motions due June 20
- Our volunteers hard at work
- Cheating in the News: One therapist, \$4 million in 2012 Medicare billing
- Board of Directors Report
- Board Liaisons to Jurisdictions
- Staff Contact Information

Medicare data's pitfalls

The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services released 2012 physician Medicare billing as a result of a lawsuit from Dow Jones & Company, Real Time Medical Data and the Center for Public Integrity. This release included physical therapy billings.

This is an enormous data dump occurring without the necessary background analysis and, as a result, we fear that a lot of erroneous conclusions might be drawn.

The data are in 12 Excel files sorted by the provider's last name and are located on their website.

<http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Medicare-Provider-Charge-Data/Physician-and-Other-Supplier.html>

The top 11 physical therapy providers reportedly all billed Medicare in excess of \$1,000,000 in 2012. The number one physical therapy provider was attributed with approximately \$5.1 million and the second was attributed with approximately \$1.9 million in Medicare billings. New York State (City) appears most often in the top 11 billings.

We are not implying the billings are fraudulent; as we said, details are not included in the reports. We do believe that the release of these data may be confusing and misleading to the public. We would hope and expect that tools will be developed to analyze the data to provide meaningful information with which to make conclusions.

At this time, we see numerous potential explanations. It may be a case of multiple individuals billing through one provider number; or the billings might relate to multiple years due to a delay in approving the provider, etc.

We all may get questions and we believed that state boards might be sought out as a source for comments. Therefore, we wanted to provide some background to you.

What big data can't tell us about healthcare

From an April 23, 2014 article written by Lisa Rosenbaum in The New Yorker:

“Jean Malouin, a family doctor in Michigan, woke up one morning earlier this month to an e-mail from a Washington Post reporter, who informed her that a vast release of Medicare payment data from 2012 had identified her as the highest female biller in the country, and the seventeenth-highest over all, with more than seven million dollars in payments. Malouin was soon inundated by interview requests from reporters, and her name appeared in newspapers across the country.

“Malouin is a family doctor, which is not a specialty that one typically enters hoping to get rich. Delivering primary care is seen by doctors as hard work that earns comparatively little pay, and it is a job that is only getting harder...

“Medicare has funded various demonstration projects to test innovations in care—one of which is led by Malouin, who supervises three hundred and eighty primary-care practices that treat a million patients in Michigan. Payments for care improvement from Medicare at all these clinics are made under Malouin’s name, which is how she ended up in dozens of newspaper reports on the data dump.”

[View article.](#)

Spotlight on member resources: Did your jurisdiction get 5 stars?



Members, be sure to review your jurisdiction’s participation in the ELDD - Exam, Licensure and Disciplinary Database. Click on Members Login in the upper right hand corner of the FSBPT website or [click here](#) to find your jurisdiction’s rating on the Dashboard.

Jurisdictions are rated on their overall participation in ELDD plus their participation in the disciplinary database, in the licensure database and in the NPTE score database.

As of March 31, 2014:

8 Jurisdictions - 5 Stars
13 Jurisdictions - 4 Stars
10 Jurisdictions - 3 Stars

7 Jurisdictions - 2 Stars
15 Jurisdictions - 1 Star

Virginia and Mississippi were our biggest gainers in the last six months. Their overall rating improved by 2 stars each. Eight jurisdictions improved their ratings by 1 star and four jurisdictions lost a star on their rating.

Want to know more about how your jurisdiction was rated? Contact communications@fsbpt.org.

2016 NPTE test dates posted

Here are the test dates for 2016. For deadlines and additional information, click "See All Dates" under National Physical Therapy Exam on our [home page](#).

2016 PT dates:

January 27
April 27
July 19 & 20
October 27

2016 PTA dates:

January 13
April 6
July 6
October 6

Board Administrators – aPTitude is at work for you!

As you know, making the continuing competence requirements for licensure renewal easy for licensees to find and understand is no small task. The good news – aPTitude and FSBPT staff can help tremendously in this area!

aPTitude displays requirements in a way that makes it easy for licensees to read and understand.

And FSBPT staff takes on the responsibility of tracking changes to your statutes and administrative rules/regulations and updating your state's requirements (model) in aPTitude.

While we work with administrators and do our best to make sure each state's model is current and correct, it's a good idea to take a few moments to log in to aPTitude (using the same email address and password you use for the FSBPT Members site) and review your model for accuracy. Please take a few moments to do so at www.fsbpt.org/aPTitude and email any requests for edits to competencestaff@fsbpt.org.

2014 Board Member & Administrator Training – last chance!

Date and place: June 6-8, 2014 Alexandria, Virginia

Sign up due date: Friday, May 2, 2014

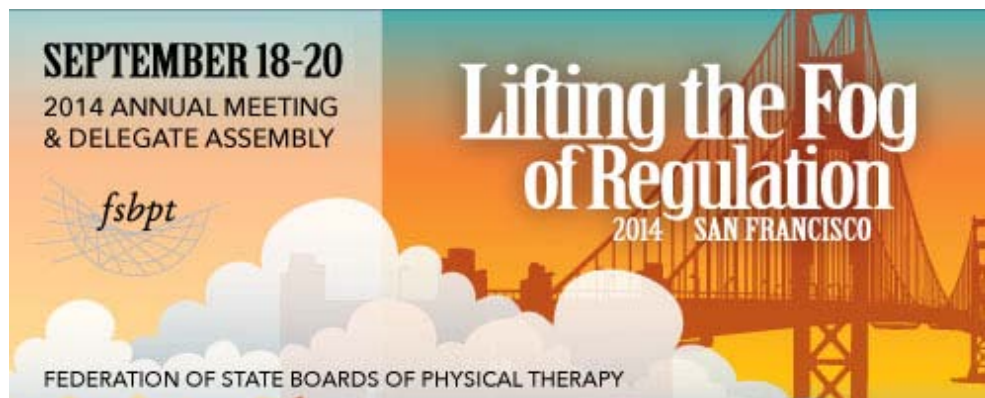
You may be new to your board, or maybe you've moved into the role of chair. Perhaps you've been on the board for a while and need a refresher or you could be brand new! It might be that your board is working on updating its practice act or implementing a new initiative like continuing competence.

If any of these sounds like you - this three-day training session will be beneficial for you. It is open to any and all members and administrators of our jurisdiction licensing boards. **New and seasoned board members/administrators** find it extremely valuable.

The training covers topics such as roles and responsibilities of licensing boards and their members, the different functions of licensing boards and professional associations, disciplinary actions, board immunity, board conflict of interest and specific information about Federation services, new initiatives and hot topics.

FSBPT funds attendance to this training.

Board members and administrators can view the 2013 agenda and presentations to get a better feel for the training by logging in at Members Login and going to Meeting Information/Member & Admin Training. To register for the training, email communications@fsbpt.org.



Delegate credentials for the annual meeting

The Federation funds three individuals from each jurisdiction to the annual meeting through the credentialing process: the voting delegate, primary alternate delegate and the board's administrator.

So far, 10 jurisdictions have credentialed their delegates: **KY, MI, MN, NC, OH, OR, PA, SC, UT** and **WI**.

Credential early! Your voting delegate will be invited to LIF

This year, the voting delegate will be invited to attend the Leadership Issues Forum (LIF) August 2-3, 2014 in Alexandria, Virginia.

The sooner you credential, the sooner your voting delegate can put LIF on their calendar! The meeting will provide updates on issues from last year's delegate assembly and potential issues for this year's delegate assembly. Note that FSBPT funds their attendance to the LIF meeting.

Need instructions?

Administrators, instructions were emailed to you on Friday, February 28. The email's subject was, "Credentialing delegates and administrators – 2014 FSBPT annual meeting."

If you would like a copy of the instructions, please email communications@fsbpt.org.

Motions due June 20

Boards, if you are considering presenting a motion to the 2014 Delegate Assembly, you will need to send motions to the FSBPT Resolutions Committee via communications@fsbpt.org by June 20.

You can submit motions after that date, but the bylaws require a two-thirds vote without debate to be heard by the Delegate Assembly.

Our volunteers hard at work



This month, FSBPT staff hosted the following hard-working groups at the Alexandria office.

Foreign Educated Standards Committee

Foreign Educated Standards Committee members *Mary Keehn, Chair, Angela Diaz, Vijay Kumar, and Tom Mohr* tackled a variety of topics while in Alexandria earlier this month.

The committee members crafted vision statements for both the supervised clinical practice model and the Performance Evaluation Tool that will now go to the Board of Directors.

The committee also made recommendations for guidelines and principles for more efficient endorsement procedures for foreign educated physical therapists with US work experience.

The committee continues to explore situations and methods where it may be appropriate to utilize professional experience and portfolios to address deficiencies identified during the educational credentials review.

Licensure Compact Task Force

The Licensure Compact Task Force met for the first time in Alexandria on April 26 & 27. They reached preliminary agreement on common areas of agreement, explored possible compact models, explored possible funding approaches and agreed in concept for ongoing communications to various stakeholders to maintain awareness of the process. The next meeting is scheduled for July.

There will be a separate more detailed summary Newsflash released in the near future, so stay tuned!

Jurisdiction Volunteers:

Jean Bikal, Rhea Cohn, Troy Costales, Jeanne DeKrey, Dargan Ervin, Kathy Fleischaker, Barbara Behrens, Lisa Hahn, George (Bo) Hamil, Annette Iglarsh, Scott Majors, Ben Massey, Ajay Middha, Senora Simpson, Samuel Sullivan, Sheri Waldie and Bo Watson

APTA Participants:

Angela Chasteen, Sharon Dunn and Justin Elliot from APTA

FSBPT Board Liaisons:

Nancy Kirsch and Jeff Rosa

Exam Committees

Members of the PT and PTA Exam Development and Item Bank Review Committees met to continue development of the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE).

Cheating in the News: One therapist, \$4 million in 2012 Medicare billing

In an article published by the New York Times on April 27, 2014, Julie Creswell and Robert Gebeloff reported, "A few miles from the Coney Island boardwalk in Brooklyn stands an outpost of what, on paper, is a giant of American medicine.

"Nothing about the place hints at the money that is said to flow there. But in 2012, according to federal data, \$4.1 million from Medicare coursed through the office in a modest white house on Ocean Avenue.

"In all, the practice treated around 1,950 Medicare patients that year. On average, it was paid by Medicare for 94 separate procedures for each one. That works out to about 183,000 treatments a year, 500 a day, 21 an hour."

[View article.](#)

Board of Directors Report

The following motions were passed at the March and April Board of Directors meetings.

From the March 2014 meeting:

To revise the current Coursework Tool, CWT 5, to eliminate the distinction between general and professional education but still require the same coursework and credits. This will become effective after a period of time during which jurisdictions will be able to assess needed changes to current rules and regulations.

Rationale: The Coursework Tool is used to determine a foreign educated PT or PTA's educational equivalency to a US educated PT or PTA. This motion does not change the total required credits for equivalence to a US physical therapy degree nor does it eliminate the general education content that is

currently required. It simply removes the artificial distinction between general and professional education. This motion allows candidates to use all credits towards their equivalency.

The term “general education” is not a term that is used in US physical therapy education. It was developed to attempt to capture general coursework designed to prepare a US student for the study of physical therapy. Foreign educated licensure candidates have already graduated from a physical therapy program. There is no evidence that 60 credits of preparatory courses taken after their professional education has been completed makes them a more qualified PT/PTA. In fact, some foreign programs have more professional education credits than are typically found in US programs. Other foreign programs include some “general education” content in their professional education.

This concept was presented at the 2013 Leadership Issues Forum; a significant majority of participants supported the change. Staff will announce the timing of this change to provide adequate notice to jurisdictions. Jurisdictions may still decide to use the Coursework Tool as it was originally designed but are encouraged to change in order to create more uniformity between jurisdiction standards.

Fiscal impact: None

From the April 17, 2014 conference call:

To adopt confidentiality policies for board of directors meetings.

Rationale: This formalizes and clarifies the confidentiality of information shared in board of directors meetings for members, candidates and staff attending board of directors meetings.

Fiscal Impact: None.

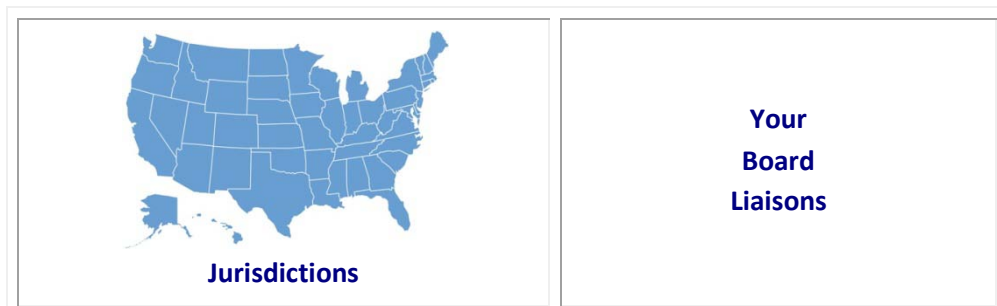
To update the Nomination & Election Manual with a section on board selection.







Rationale: This puts in writing the requirements that have been used by the nominating committee for selecting candidates for the board of directors.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Board Liaisons to Jurisdictions

Find out which member of the board of directors is liaison to your jurisdiction.



<p>Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont</p>	<p><u>Maggie Donohue</u></p> 
<p>Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, Utah</p>	<p><u>Natalie Harms</u></p> 
<p>Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Washington</p>	<p><u>Jim Heider</u></p> 
<p>Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia</p>	<p><u>Nancy Kirsch</u></p> 
<p>Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming</p>	<p><u>David Relling</u></p> 
<p>Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Wisconsin</p>	<p><u>Jeff Rosa</u></p> 

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia,
Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina,
South Carolina

[Ron Seymour](#)



**Staff Contact Information
Who Should I Contact?**

Subject	Point of Contact	Phone
ADA accommodations	Shana Smith	800-881-1430, ext. 202
Assessment/ examination development questions	Lorin Mueller , Ph.D. Susan Layton	800-881-1430, ext. 206 800-881-1430, ext. 224
Continuing competence	Heidi Herbst Paakkonen Holly Ball Competence Staff	800-881-1430, ext. 283 800-881-1430, ext. 282
Credentials review	Jaime Nolan Susan K. Lindeblad, Ph.D.	800-881-1430, ext. 403 800-881-1430, ext. 401
Exam registration processing	Christine Sousa	800-881-1430, ext. 201
Foreign educated issues	Mark Lane Susan K. Lindeblad, Ph.D.	800-881-1430, ext. 232 800-881-1430, ext. 401
Immigration	Susan K. Lindeblad, Ph.D.	800-881-1430, ext. 401

Legislation or Model Practice Act	Mark Lane Leslie Adrian	800-881-1430, ext. 232 800-881-1430, ext. 233
Meeting arrangements	Paul Delaney	800-881-1430, ext. 223
Member contact updates	Maribeth C. Decker	800-881-1430, ext. 227
NPDB reports/questions	Angela Burnham	800-881-1430, ext. 249
Practice Review Tool (PRT)	practicereview@fsbpt.org	800-881-1430, ext. 282
PT and PTA Practice Exam & Assessment Tool (PEAT)	peat@fsbpt.org	800-881-1430, ext. 300
Reimbursement of expenses; other financial matters	Tracy Leadmon Larry Wilkerson	800-881-1430, ext. 228 800-881-1430, ext. 226
School reports	SchoolReports@fsbpt.org	703-739-9420, ext. 300
Score transfer & reporting	Christine Sousa	800-881-1430, ext. 201
Security issues	Susan Layton	800-881-1430, ext. 224
Anything else, including news to share with members	William A. Hatherill Maribeth C. Decker	800-881-1430, ext. 225 800-881-1430, ext. 227



Sign off: That's all the news today from the short lived cherry blossomed banks of the Potomac, where the fish are faster, the fishing boats are longer, and the fishermen are still full of stories.

- William A. Hatherill, CEO