

Date: December 22, 2020

To: Genesis Rehab Services Business Partners

From: Lou Ann Soika, Chief Strategy and Administrative Officer

Re: Business Partner Communication - Week of December 20, 2020



Thank you...

From everyone at Genesis Rehab, we'd like to say thank you for your continued loyalty and faith in us this year. We value each and every one of our customers and cannot express our gratitude enough for your ongoing support especially as we all faced the challenges of a pandemic. We hope you have a beautiful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Regulatory Updates and Resources:

Based on information we received from NARA and NASL, Congress has passed the [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 \(H.R. 133\)](#), a sweeping bipartisan \$1.4 trillion dollar year-end government funding piece of legislation, which includes \$900 billion in COVID relief. The bill now heads to the President's desk for final signature this week.

While rehabilitation providers did not get the full relief we sought after months of advocacy, we did get some relief:

- **Increase to Conversion Factor:** An add-on of \$3 billion to the Physician Fee Schedule which would increase fee schedules by 3.75 percent for 2021 only:
 - We are awaiting specific values for the Conversion Factor that will help provide an updated calculation of the fee schedule reduction.
 - The provision indicates that services paid under the fee schedule between 1/1/2021 and 1/1/2022 will increase by 3.75 percent to be implemented through a program instruction or other appropriate procedure.
 - If additional funds are needed, they will be made available from the Part B and Part D Trust Funds.

- It appears that the OT/SP/PT will see a reduction of approximately 3.6 percent in 2021 instead of the 9 percent called for in the final rule - we will continue to watch this and provide updates as the language continues to be reviewed.
- A report is required no later than April 1, 2022 on the aggregate amount of the increase in payment amounts, including information on payments made in excess of the appropriated \$3 billion.

Additionally, the bill continues the current Alternative Payment Model (APM) thresholds for two additional years, allowing more providers to qualify for the 5 percent APM payment who would otherwise have been disqualified because of statutory increases in threshold amounts.

Medicare Extenders:

- **Extension of the work 1.0 geographic index floor under the Medicare program.** This section increases payments for the work component of physician fee schedule payment in areas where labor cost is determined to be lower than the national average through December 31, 2023.
- **Extension of funding for quality measure endorsement, input, and selection.** This section provides \$66 million in funding to CMS for quality measure selection and to contract with a consensus-based entity to carry out duties related to quality measurement and performance improvement through September 30, 2023. It also includes additional reporting requirements, facilitates measure removal, and prioritizes maternal morbidity and mortality measure endorsement.
- **Sequestration Relief Extended:** Medicare sequestration suspension extension will be for three months from 12/31/2020 to 3/31/2021.

Medicare Policies:

- **Moratorium on payment under the Medicare physician fee schedule of the add-on code for inherently complex evaluation and management visits.** As noted above, this section prohibits the HHS Secretary from making payments under the Physician Fee Schedule for services described by Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code G2211 (or any successor or substantially similar code) prior to January 1, 2024.
- **Improving measurements under the skilled nursing facility value-based purchasing (SNF VBP) program.** This section allows the HHS Secretary to add up to 10 quality measures, including measures of functional status, patient safety, care coordination, or patient experience, to the SNF VBP program for facilities with more than the required minimum number of cases.
- **Report to MedPAC – Post-Acute Care (PAC) Payment Reform.** This section calls for the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) to submit a report to Congress by March 15, 2022, that includes a post-acute care value-based payment program prototype. This provision appears to move the MedPAC report submission date originally provided for under the IMPACT Act up one year, which was originally set for March 15, 2023.
- **Permitting occupational therapists to conduct the initial assessment visit and complete the comprehensive assessment with respect to certain rehabilitation services for home**

health agencies under the Medicare program. This section requires the HHS Secretary, no later than January 1, 2022, to allow occupational therapists to conduct initial assessment visits and complete comprehensive assessments for certain home health services if the referral order by the physician does not include skilled nursing care but includes occupational therapy and physical therapy or speech language pathology.

- **Temporary freeze of APM payment incentive thresholds.** This section freezes the current payment and patient count thresholds for physicians and other eligible clinicians participating in Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs) to receive a five percent incentive payment in payment years 2023 and 2024 (for performance years 2021 and 2022). It also freezes the Partial Qualifying APM participant payment threshold and the patient count threshold at current levels for performance years 2021 and 2022 (and payment years 2022 and 2023).
- **CMS provider outreach and reporting on cognitive assessment and care plan services.** This section requires the Secretary of HHS to conduct outreach to Medicare providers and practitioners regarding Medicare payment for cognitive assessment and care plan services furnished to individuals with cognitive impairment, such as Alzheimer's and related dementias.
- **Continued coverage of certain temporary transitional home infusion therapy services.** This section ensures continued coverage of home infusion therapy services for beneficiaries taking self-administered and biological drugs that are currently included under the temporary transitional home infusion therapy benefit when the permanent home infusion therapy benefit takes effect January 1, 2021.
- **Beneficiary enrollment simplification.** This section eliminates coverage gaps in Medicare by requiring that Part B insurance coverage begins the first of the month following an individual's enrollment and provides for a Part A and Part B Special Enrollment Period for "exceptional circumstances," such as hurricanes and other natural disasters, to mirror authority in Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D.
- **Improve access to skilled nursing facility (SNF) services for hemophilia patients (HR 5954).** This section adds blood clotting factors and items and services related to their furnishing to the categories of high-cost, low-probability services that are excluded from the skilled nursing facility (SNF) per diem prospective payment system (PPS) and are separately payable. This change will allow SNF care to be an option instead of continued inpatient care for this limited population.

To access the text of the 5,593-page legislation, please click the following link: [In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate, insert the following: 1 This Act may be cited as the "Consolid](#)

For a summary of the healthcare-related provisions, please select the following link: <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/sites/democrats.waysandmeans.house.gov/files/documents/Overall%20Summary%20Joint%20Committees%20Final%2012.21.pdf>

Genesis Overview of COVID Vaccines

We have been working on logistics as to how we can best collaborate with our Business Partners to ensure that our staff have access to the COVID vaccine. Many of you have already reached out to let

us know that you will be including our staff in your vaccination process by offering it to the therapy team and adding our staff members into your facility counts in your CVS, Walgreens, etc. orders. Thank you! We believe that is a best practice and Genesis Rehab will be happy to collaborate with you. We want to be 100% ready since we know the vaccine, once approved, may become available to us as early as next week.

If you want our staff to be included in your Covid vaccine initiative, please reach out to your local Genesis Rehab team member to let them know, if possible, what pharmacy (CVS, Walgreens, etc.) and what dates the pharmacy will be on site to provide the vaccinations. From there, we will support by assisting with:

- Education for our Director of Rehab and therapy team on what to expect.
 - We will reinforce that they will need to provide their insurance cards and fill out a consent.
 - We will further reinforce that the consent is needed by the pharmacy and likely in advance
- Our Director or Rehab will be able to provide a headcount of therapy team members so that you may include this in your pharmacy requests.

While there is no actual data, based on Genesis discussions with the CDC and other world wide agencies, we believe the following is the most accurate information to date. Guidance and information changes rapidly so we encourage you to seek counsel with your HR, legal and medical experts. We expect negative reactions to the vaccine to be minimal but we do have a team of over 5,000+ PRN therapists that we can call on in the event of a therapist being absent as we do today.

As we receive additional information, we'll be sure to communicate with you. For your use and reference, we have included a QA COVID-19 Vaccine document from AMDA that has been shared with our staff.

Additional Information:

Please see attached for our GRS "Your Wellness Matters" recorded video library and the December edition of our Wellness Tips newsletter. Be sure to check out our new wellness classes.

Celebrating Safely



The COVID-19 pandemic has been [stressful](#) and isolating for many people. Gatherings during the upcoming holidays can be an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. This holiday season, consider how your holiday plans can be modified to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep your friends, families, and communities healthy and safe. Celebrating virtually or with members of your own household (who are consistently taking [measures](#) to reduce the spread of COVID-19) poses the lowest risk for spread.

Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

Examples of how households may differ:

- ★ Family members sharing a home
- ★ Roommates in a private residence or in a community residence
- ★ Community members sharing common spaces
- ★ Private caregiver living in your home



What can you do to stay healthy and safe?

- ★ Prioritize attending outdoor activities if weather permits
- ★ Use social distancing and limit physical contact
- ★ Wear a mask
- ★ Limit contact with commonly touched surfaces or shared items
- ★ Ensure commonly touched surfaces are clean and disinfected
- ★ Bring supplies to help you stay healthy (hand sanitizer, water)
- ★ Avoid self-serve food options such as buffets and potlucks
- ★ Use grab and go meal options if available
- ★ Communicate to others the importance of wearing a mask

We recommend you engage in physically and/or intellectually stimulating activities on a regular basis to enhance your overall wellness. Please join us for recorded GRS Your Wellness Matters Classes.

The wellness classes can be accessed by [Clicking Here](#).



Contact your local Genesis Rehab Services therapy team onsite
Corporate Office: 101 E. State Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348 • genesisrehab.com



Welcome to our **GRS Your Wellness Matters Recorded mind-body-cognitive wellness class series** presented by our expert Clinical Director Instructors. You can access our wellness classes any time, any day, from the comfort of your own home.

Location: [Click Here](#) for access to our class library

Duration: Class durations range from 18 - 35 minutes

Class Descriptions: see below

Progressive Muscle Relaxation

Engage in this mind-body technique that involves slowly tensing and then relaxing each muscle group in the body.

Flexibility with Physical Therapist Cindy Gallo

Join us for a class designed to increase relaxation and flexibility.

Chair Yoga with Physical Therapist Kelly Repka

Mind and body balance is essential. It can help prevent falls, decrease pain, reduce anxiety, and help improve flexibility and strength. Join in as we engage in the mind and body connection through yoga.

Affirmations with Speech-Language Pathologist Delle Crowe

Discussion on topics such as gratitude and love.

Functional Strength with Physical Therapist Michael McGregor

Have fun and move through a variety of seated exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement, and activities for daily living.

Maximize your Memory with Speech-Language Pathologist Bobby Maxwell

Interactive brain health classes to support your cognitive wellness!

Meditation and Mindfulness with Speech-Language Pathologist Jordan Bowman

Enjoy guided meditation including gentle stretching and mindfulness practices.

Tai Chi (Seated Modification) with Physical Therapist Jen Lucas

Engage in this gentle exercise while seated. Exercise consists of slow, graceful movements combined with deep breathing.