

Reimbursement/Payment Chair

Term: Three-year term, with no more than two consecutive terms; time commitment varies based on responsibilities.

Position Objective: The Reimbursement Chair (APTA calls it Payment Chair (PC)) helps both the component and APTA with the variety of payment issues that physical therapists face. There are over 3,000 insurers and other third party payers across the United States, many of whom are uncertain about, or even unaware of, physical therapy services. There are other payers who believe they are knowledgeable about physical therapy issues but are mistakenly including all "rehabilitation" with the services delivered by physical therapists and are often unable to identify the provider types they are paying. And finally there are insurers who are actively seeking to limit their financial exposure to the "physical therapy risk" which is included in their contracts and with whom active negotiation is critical.

Benefits: Serving as Reimbursement Chair provides a unique opportunity to impact and influence the direction and advancement of physical therapist practice and payment. The Reimbursement Chair keeps abreast of current payment issues related to the Chapter or to physical therapist in general. The Reimbursement Chair interfaces and communicates with the Reimbursement Committee, Idaho members, payers, patients, employers, APTA, and the Chapter's Board of Directors on issues related to payment. Using available resources from APTA, payment knowledge and experience, you will be able to benefit the profession and make a lasting contribution to physical therapist practice in your Chapter. You will have access to APTA Payment staff to guide you in your responsibilities and provide the information and materials you will need to engage in successful strategies that support physical therapists in Idaho.

Specific Responsibilities: The Reimbursement Chair is responsible for serving as a resource to the Chapter in the area of payment as well as increasing member awareness of available resources and documents related to payment issues.

Responsibilities:

- Reading and disseminating the information provided by APTA for the PCs (ie contributing to the Idaho newsletter or website)
- Attend the annual State Policy and Payment Forum (travel expenses covered by APTA & IPTA)
- Listening to APTA webinars and CMS audio forums (Payment Chairs will have complimentary access to Payment webinars)
- Attending National APTA Seminars such as the Coding Seminars. PC's receive complimentary registration for the live coding seminar each year
- Obtaining familiarity with state practice act
- Following trends in employer purchased health insurance such as high deductible contracts and HSAs.
- Staying aware of policy changes from Medicare and other payers (the APTA web site can be particularly helpful with Medicare changes)
- Attending local Medicare contractor meetings and other payers' educational sessions
- Investigating insurers direct access policies and following up if appropriate

Qualifications: Must be a member of the Chapter. Knowledge of payment issues and/or willingness to learn.

Training and Support: In addition to training offered by your Chapter, APTA Payment Department can provide resources and support.

Support:

- State Policy and Payment Forum <http://www.apta.org/StateForum/>
- Payment Website: <http://www.apta.org/Payment/>
- Contact Payment Department at 1-800-999-2782, X8511 or advocacy@apta.org
- Component Payment Chair Orientation Manual
<http://communities.apta.org/p/do/sd/topic=427&sid=3053>