



APTA Brief on State Government Affairs

State: Colorado

Issue(s): Fair Physical Therapy (PT) Copays

Bill number: HB 1083

Text of legislation: [1083 enr.pdf](#)

On June 5, 2015 Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper signed HB 15-1083 into law. This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by Colorado State Rep Dianne Primavera and State Sen Larry Crowder, will study the impact of patient cost-sharing on the cost and access to physical rehabilitation services.

Fair PT Copays

HB 1083 charges the Colorado Commission on Affordable Health Care to conduct a study on patient costs and cost-sharing for physical rehabilitation services, including those services provided by physical therapists, occupational therapists, and chiropractors. The study will analyze costs to the health care system, including payers and individual patients, as well as whether patient cost-sharing creates barriers to physical rehabilitation services. The commission has until November 1 to report its findings to the Colorado Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Colorado House Committee on Health, Insurance, and the Environment.

The study, which will be funded by a \$25,000 budget allocation from the state of Colorado, will look at physical therapy, occupational therapy and chiropractic services for cases in which a person has sustained an illness, medical condition, or injury with the goal of returning the person to their prior skill and functional level. The study will also include cases where the goal was to maintain a person's current skill and functional level.

Statement from APTA of Colorado

"The Colorado Chapter is very happy that Governor Hickenlooper has signed HB 1083. We think this bill will ultimately improve access to physical therapist services for all Coloradans," said Jon Timothy Noteboom, PT, PhD, SCS, president of the APTA of Colorado, "On behalf of the chapter, I want to thank all the members who supported us whether it was through testifying for the bill, fundraising efforts, or by contacting their legislators."

APTA provided APTA of Colorado with a 2015 APTA state advocacy grant. In 2011, the APTA House of Delegates adopted a position supporting federal and state legislation that would



require payers to limit the patient's/client's financial responsibility to less than the actual amount paid to the provider by the insurance carriers and insurance intermediary.

Of note: In addition to the Colorado chapter, APTA chapters in Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Vermont are also advocating for fair PT copay legislation this year