APTA Launches Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry to Improve Patient Care

ALEXANDRIA, VA, Feb. 15, 2017 — As health care reform increasingly emphasizes higher quality of care and demonstrated value of services, physical therapists nationwide will now be better equipped to meet those rising expectations. Today, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) launched the Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry (Registry) at its Combined Sections Meeting in San Antonio, the largest annual conference for the physical therapy profession.

The Registry enables physical therapists to make improved data-informed clinical decisions, track and benchmark outcomes against industry data, and demonstrate the value of physical therapist services to payers and fellow providers. It directly integrates with multiple third-party electronic health record (EHR) systems to seamlessly and securely transfer data to an unprecedented database of patient episodes. The database will provide immediate profession-wide benchmarking and inform future research. Conceived in 2013, and developed, beta-tested, and improved throughout 2016, the Registry is now accepting facility enrollments, ranging from small private practices to large, multisite organizations.

"The Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry will provide data from the profession, for the profession, in a way that’s unrivaled in our more than 100-year history," said APTA President Sharon Dunn, PT, PhD. "The Registry will be a powerful tool in our efforts to transform our patients’ health and quality of life. We believe the Registry will help us elevate the care we provide our patients, better demonstrate our value, and define our future, both as individual physical therapists and as a profession."

FIGmd, an industry leader in the development of clinical registries for specialty societies, partnered with APTA to create the Registry.

"Patient registries will be crucial for improving and establishing best practices for future patient care, and our collaboration with FIGmd has helped us ensure a best-in-class product," said James Irrgang, PT, PhD, ATC, chair of the Registry's Scientific Advisory Panel. "FIGmd’s technology allows for effortless transfer of EHR data."

The Registry will align with current and future quality and compliance programs required by payers, such as the new Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). Using the Registry, physical therapists will be able to access nonproprietary outcomes measures supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as well as measures specific to particular EHRs. In addition, body region/disease-specific treatment and outcome modules will help physical therapists treat patients according to established clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) while also empowering groups with the opportunity to develop and update data-driven CPGs.

The American Physical Therapy Association represents more than 95,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy nationwide. Visit MoveForwardPT.com to learn more about the types of conditions physical therapists treat and find a physical therapist in your area.

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