CMS Designates APTA Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry as Qualified Clinical Data Registry Under MIPS

ALEXANDRIA, VA, May 15, 2017 — As health care reform increasingly emphasizes higher quality of care and demonstrated value of services, physical therapists (PTs) nationwide will now be better equipped to meet those rising expectations. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is pleased to announce that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry (Registry) to collect and report quality measure data under the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

Registry clients who voluntarily participate in MIPS can now submit their data directly from the Registry. This is particularly helpful for practices whose EHRs are not set up to submit MIPS quality data. As early as 2019, physical therapist participation in MIPS will be mandatory.

“As a qualified clinical data registry, the Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry aligns with APTA’s commitment to demonstrating outcomes to advance quality and payment,” said APTA President Sharon Dunn, PT, PhD. “The Registry will help us elevate the care we provide our patients, better understand our value, and define our future, both as individual physical therapists and as a profession.”

The Registry includes 8 quality measures, meeting stringent CMS criteria. Registry users can access nonproprietary outcomes measures supported by CMS, as well as measures specific to particular EHRs. In addition, planned body region/disease-specific treatment and outcome modules will help PTs treat patients according to established clinical practice guidelines (CPGs).

"Patient registries will be crucial for improving and establishing best practices for future patient care, and MIPS participation is another aspect of that," said James Irrgang, PT, PhD, ATC, FAPTA, scientific director of the Registry’s Scientific Advisory Panel. “The Registry will continue to align its quality measures with CMS to support our clients’ current and future needs.”

The Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry enables PTs to make improved, data-informed clinical decisions, track and benchmark outcomes against industry data, and demonstrate the value of PT 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 profession-wide benchmarking and inform future clinical and health services research. For more information about the Registry, visit www.ptoutcomes.com.

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 PTs treat and find a PT in your area.

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