

APTA Payment Advocacy Summit

July 10-11, 2026 / Portland, Oregon



Friday, July 10

9-11 a.m.	<p>Preconference: The Role of PTs in Primary Care This optional preconference session will focus on advancing the role of physical therapists in primary care, including recent state-level advocacy efforts.</p> <p>Moderator: William Boissonnault, PT, DPT, DHSc, FAPTA</p> <p>Samantha Schmidt, PT Co-chair, APTA Primary Care Special Interest Group, APTA Federal</p> <p>Trevor Lentz, PT, PhD, MPH Associate Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery, Duke University Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy</p> <p>Justin Carrier, PT President, APTA Utah</p>
11-11:45 a.m.	Coffee, Conversations, and Connection
11:45 a.m. -1:15 p.m.	<p>Welcome & Opening Plenary Luncheon</p> <p>Andrea Doepker, PT, DPT Susanne Michaud, PT, DPT, OCS President, APTA Oregon President, APTA Washington</p> <p><i>Additional speaker TBA.</i></p>
1:15-1:45 p.m.	Break: Networking and Idea Exchange

	Learning Labs 1 are focused on how components can build advocacy infrastructure.	Learning Labs 2 are focused on how pay chairs, PT businesses, and others can collaborate on payer advocacy.	Learning Labs 3 are focused on payment legislative strategies at the state level.	Learning Labs 4 are focused on how PT business leaders, physical therapy practices, payment advocates, and others can collaborate on payment challenges and opportunities.
1:45-2:30 p.m.	<p>Learning Lab 1a</p> <p>Building a Winning State Advocacy Program</p> <p>Lauri Jacobson Executive Director APTA Maryland</p> <p>Amber Gadow, PT, DPT Legislative Chair APTA South Carolina</p>	<p>Learning Lab 2a</p> <p>Contracting: Yes, you Can! No, They Can't. An Intro to Understanding Your Negotiating Power</p> <p>Rick Gawenda, PT Chair, Payment Policy Committee APTA Private Practice</p> <p>Robert Hall, JD, MPAff Senior Payment Consultant SPARC</p>	<p>Learning Lab 3a</p> <p>State Legislative Strategies on Prior Authorization</p> <p>Gwen Simons, PT, Esq. Simons & Associates Law Lobbyist, APTA Maine</p>	<p>Learning Lab 4a</p> <p>More Friends = Better Results: A Credentialing Case Study</p> <p>Nicole Kluckhohn, PT, DPT, ATC Chair, Credentialing Subcommittee APTA Private Practice</p> <p>Cristina Fauchoux, PT Chair, Government Affairs Committee APTA Private Practice</p>
2:30-3 p.m.	Break: Networking and Idea Exchange			
3-3:45 p.m.	<p>Learning Lab 1b</p> <p>Coalition Building for Payment Advocacy</p> <p>Deborah Alexander, PT, DPT Payment Specialist APTA Maryland and APTA Pennsylvania</p>	<p>Learning Lab 2b</p> <p>Contracting: Setting the Stage for Successful Contract Negotiations</p> <p>Kelly Sanders, PT, DPT, ATC Board of Directors APTA Private Practice</p>	<p>Learning Lab 3b</p> <p>Medicaid Payment Advocacy</p> <p>Rebekah, Griffith, PT, DPT President, APTA Colorado</p> <p>Melissa Johnson, JD</p>	<p>Learning Lab 4b</p> <p>More Friends = Better Results: Tackling Denials and Appeals</p> <p>Gwen Simons, PT, Esq. Simons & Associates Law Lobbyist, APTA Maine</p>

	Tricia Catalino, PT, DSc President, APTA Pediatrics	Gabe Freyaldenhoven, PT, DPT Chair, UM Subcommittee APTA Private Practice	Bogard & Johnson, LLC Lobbyist, APTA Washington	
3:50-4:30 p.m.	Day 1 Closing General Session: Takeaways and Action Items			
Evening Option 6-9 p.m.	PTPAC Event Punch Bowl Social (ticket required)			

Saturday, July 11

7:30-8:20 a.m.	Networking Breakfast
8:20-9 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks Kyle Covington, PT, DPT, PhD President, American Physical Therapy Association Mike Horsfield, PT, MBA, OCS President, APTA Private Practice
9-9:50 a.m.	General Session: Alternative Care and Payment Models Moderator: Craig Johnson, PT, MBA, APTA Board of Directors Dana Strauss, PT, DPT Lead Director, Public Policy and Government Affairs CVS Health Chris Carlin, OTR/L, MBA

	<p>Vice President of Operations Hartford HealthCare Community Network</p> <p>Joseph Kamerath, MD Senior Medical Director for Rehabilitation Intermountain Health</p>
9:50-10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00 -11:00 a.m.	<p>General Session 2: Care Coordination and Direct Provider Referrals: The VA External Provider Scheduling for Physical Therapy</p> <p>Howard Manuel, JD Deputy Senior Advisor U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p>Mark Havran, PT, ATC, CSCS National Physical Therapy Manager U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p>Richard Marble Solution Train Engineer U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs</p>
11:00 -11:30 a.m.	Break: Networking and Idea Exchange
11:30 – 12:30 p.m.	<p>General Session 3: Role of AI Utilization and the Impact on Providers, Payers, and Patients</p> <p>Moderator: Drew Contreras, PT, DPT, APTA Vice President of Strategic Affairs</p> <p>Pedro L. Teixeira, MD, PhD Co-founder & CTO Prompt Sidekick</p> <p>Kevin Smith, MBA</p>

	<p>Leader, Fusion Business Unit Ensora Health</p> <p>Jordan Hobley, PT, DPT Regional Manager Athelas</p>			
12:30 – 1:40 p.m.	<p>Plenary Luncheon and Speaker</p> <p>David Silk Managing Director of Strategic Operations Peterson Health Technology Institute (PHTI)</p>			
1:45-2:30 p.m.	<p>Learning Lab 1c</p> <p>SPARC: Your Partner in Advocacy</p> <p>Tom DiAngelis, PT, DPT Chair SPARC</p> <p>Robert Hall, JD, MPAff Senior Payment Consultant SPARC</p>	<p>Learning Lab 2c</p> <p>Contracting: Work Smarter or Harder? Modeling Payment Scenarios for In-Network vs. Out-of-Network</p> <p>Kelly Sanders, PT, DPT, ATC Board of Directors APTA Private Practice</p> <p>Gabe Freyaldenhoven, PT, DPT Chair, UM Subcommittee APTA Private Practice</p>	<p>Learning Lab 3c</p> <p>State Legislation on Provider Credentialing</p> <p>Rep. Ken Clouston, PT, DPT Wyoming House of Representatives</p> <p>Rep. Julie Rogers, PT Michigan House of Representatives</p>	<p>Learning Lab 4c</p> <p>More Friends = Better Results: Coding and Payment Reform</p> <p>Angela Pennisi, PT, DPT Consultant, APTA Payment Reform Task Force</p> <p>Rick Rausch, PT, DPT Consultant, APTA Payment Reform Task Force</p>
2:30-3 p.m.	<p>Break: Networking & Idea Exchange</p>			
3-3:45 p.m.	<p>Learning Lab 1d</p>	<p>Learning Lab 2d</p>	<p>Learning Lab 3d</p>	<p>Learning Lab 4d</p>

	<p>SPARC: Case Studies on Commercial Payment Advocacy</p> <p>Kenny Erb, PT Vice President APTA Pennsylvania</p> <p>Jason Putz, PT Member, Payment Committee & Past President APTA Iowa</p> <p>Robert Hall, JD, MPAff Senior Payment Consultant SPARC</p>	<p>Contracting: From Making the Ask to Walking Away in Negotiations</p> <p>Yvonne Swanson, PT, DPT UM Task Force APTA Private Practice</p> <p>Kelly Sanders, PT, DPT, ATC Board of Directors APTA Private Practice</p>	<p>State Legislation on PT Physician Status under Workers Comp.</p> <p>Emily Herndon, PT, DPT, CLT President APTA Montana</p>	<p>More Friends = Better Results: Interactive Idea Exchange on Collaborating to Advance Payment</p> <p>Mike Horsfield, PT, MBA, OCS President APTA Private Practice</p> <p>Sharon Vitti CEO, ATI Physical Therapy</p> <p>Chris Bise, PT, DPT, PhD University of Pittsburgh</p> <p>Brent Huber Executive Director Northwest Rehab Alliance</p>
3:50-4:30 p.m.	Day 2 Closing General Session: Advocating and Advancing Payment Together			
Evening Option 7-10 p.m.	<p>Saturday Night Social Event</p> <p>Wonderlove (RSVP required)</p>			