

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 <i>This optional preconference session will focus on advancing the role of physical therapists in primary care, including recent state-level advocacy efforts.</i></p>			
11-11:30 a.m.	Coffee, Conversations, and Connection			
11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.	Opening Plenary Luncheon and Speaker			
1:15-1:45 p.m.	Break: Networking and Idea Exchange			
	<p><i>Learning Labs 1 are focused on how components can build advocacy infrastructure.</i></p>	<p><i>Learning Labs 2 are focused on how pay chairs, PT businesses, and others can collaborate on payer advocacy.</i></p>	<p><i>Learning Labs 3 are focused on payment legislative strategies at the state level.</i></p>	<p><i>Learning Labs 4 are focused on how PT businesses leaders, physical therapy practices, payment advocates, and others can collaborate on payment challenges and opportunities.</i></p>
1:45-2:30 p.m.	<p>Learning Lab 1a Building a Winning State Advocacy Program</p>	<p>Learning Lab 2a Contracting: Yes, you Can! No, They Can't. An Intro to Understanding Your Negotiating Power</p>	<p>Learning Lab 3a Legislative Strategies on Prior Authorization</p>	<p>Learning Lab 4a More Friends = Better Results: A Credentialing Case Study</p>

2-3 p.m.	Break: Networking and Idea Exchange			
3-3:45 p.m.	Learning Lab 1b Coalition Building for Payment Advocacy	Learning Lab 2b Contracting: Setting the Stage for Successful Contract Negotiations	Learning Lab 3b Medicaid Payment Advocacy	Learning Lab 4b More Friends = Better Results: Tackling Denials and Appeals
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 <i>(ticket required)</i>			

Saturday, July 11

7:30-8:30 a.m.	Networking Breakfast
8:30-9 a.m.	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Kyle Covington, PT, DPT, PhD</i> <i>President, American Physical Therapy Association</i></p> <p><i>Mike Horsfield, PT,</i> <i>President, APTA Private Practice</i></p>
9-9:45 a.m.	General Session: Alternative Care and Payment Models
9:45-10:15 a.m.	Break: Networking and Idea Exchange
10:15-11 a.m.	<p>General Session 2: Care Coordination and Direct Provider Referrals: The VA External Provider Scheduling for Physical Therapy</p> <p><u><i>Howard Manuel, JD</i></u> <i>Deputy Senior Advisor</i> <i>U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs</i></p>
11-11:30 a.m.	Break: Networking and Idea Exchange
11:30 – 12:20 p.m.	General Session 3: Role of AI Utilization and the Impact on Providers, Payers, and Patients
12:20-12:30 p.m.	Break
12:30 – 1:45 pm	Plenary Luncheon and Speaker

1:45-2:30 p.m.	Learning Lab 1c SPARC: Your Partner in Advocacy	Learning Lab 2c Contracting: Work Smarter or Harder? Modeling Payment Scenarios for In-Network vs. Out-of-Network	Learning Lab 3c State Legislation on Provider Credentialing	Learning Lab 4c More Friends = Better Results: Coding and Payment Reform
2:30-3 p.m.	Break: Networking & Idea Exchange			
3-3:45 p.m.	Learning Lab 1d SPARC: Case Studies on Commercial Payment Advocacy	Learning Lab 2d Contracting: From Making the Ask to Walking Away in Negotiations	Learning Lab 3d State Legislation on PT Physician Status under Workers Comp.	Learning Lab 4d More Friends = Better Results: Interactive Idea Exchange on Collaborating to Advance Payment
3:50-4:30 p.m.	Day 2 Closing General Session: Advocating and Advancing Payment Together			
Evening Option 7-10 p.m.	Saturday Night Social Event Wonderlove <i>(RSVP required)</i>			