

# Wyo Communications

Wyoming Physical Therapy Association Newsletter

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## President's Message

V. Norene Christensen, PT, DSc, OCS

This will be my last column as president for me to write for the WYPTA. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support of the WYPTA during my presidency. The last 6 years have been fun and exciting and it has been a pleasure to represent the WYPTA at national meetings.

I would like to congratulate everyone who contacted their senators and house representatives during the 2009 legislative session to help pass SF 54 Physical Therapy Practice Act. All of the phone calls, coffees and letters proved to be effective. We were very successful! Please see Pam Mill's (WY State PT Licensing Board) column that outlines what changes have taken place in our Practice Act. We also saw the successful passage of the Athletic Training Licensure Bill which was co-written by Kathy Blair, PT, DPT (WYPTA State Government Affairs). I would like to thank APTA's Angela Chasteen and Justin Elliot of the APTA State Government Affairs for their involvement and support as well as awarding us a monetary grant to help us with our efforts.

As a reminder, effective November 1, 2009 all physical therapists will need to be in compliance with the FTC's "Red Flag" rule, which requires creditors to establish a program to prevent identity theft in their practices. Practice managers and owners are encouraged to review the rule and develop programs

to bring their facilities into compliance with the requirements. Visit [www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/business/alerts/alt050.shtm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/business/alerts/alt050.shtm) for more information.

Check out the APTA website for exciting news on the "Move Forward Physical Therapy Brings Motion To Life" brand beat. See what the public says about physical therapy and how we are viewed by physicians and nurses. Also check out the APTA Learning Center where you can find CEU courses, whether they are home studies, computer courses or live courses. The APTA has responded to the economic downturn and has a special area of the website dedicated to resources for overcoming practice and reimbursement challenges.

Finally, we hope to see you at the Fall Business and Education Conference, October 3-4, 2009 in Casper, Wyoming. See Ken Clouston's (Vice President) column for more information on the available courses. We are also looking for nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, Representative to the Physical Therapy Assistant Caucus and for the Doris Chaffin Award.

Please contact Kathy Day, [kathyday123@msn.com](mailto:kathyday123@msn.com), or Ken Clouston, [kclouston@bresnan.net](mailto:kclouston@bresnan.net), for information on how to nominate someone!

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Fall WYPTA Conference*
- *Wyoming Physical Therapy Practice Act Update*
- *WYPTA membership information*
- *Update from Annual APTA Conference in San Antonio*

## Reimbursement Information—Kathy Blair, PT

### **"Red Flag Rules" Delayed**

The Federal Trade Commission just announced that it will delay enforcement of the new "Red Flags Rule" until November 1, 2009, to give creditors more time to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs. Physical therapists and other healthcare providers who provide services to patients without requiring those patients to pay in full at the time of service will need to comply with the "Red Flag Rules" that require the development of an Identify Theft Prevention Program. These rules require that they make reasonable attempts to prevent and detect identify theft and take action to mitigate identity theft if it occurs. To assist with compliance, the FTC will soon release a template to help entities that have a low risk of identity theft, such as businesses that know their customers personally. More information on the "Red Flag Rules" is available on APTA's website by clicking here: [http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Fraud\\_and\\_Abuse&Template=/Member-sOnly.cfm&ContentID=57432&Token=6B0654A6-9FBD-43AB-A6B8-85CDFE271783](http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Fraud_and_Abuse&Template=/Member-sOnly.cfm&ContentID=57432&Token=6B0654A6-9FBD-43AB-A6B8-85CDFE271783). The FTC announcement of the delay until August is available at: <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2009/04/redflagrules.htm>

### **Rescission of Medicaid Outpatient Hospital Rule**

On May 5, 2009, CMS published a rule that proposes to rescind a previous final rule entitled "Clarification of Outpatient Hospital Facility Services Definition". CMS states that since the publication of this rule, the Agency has realized the adverse effects and restrictions to access to care that may result from implementation of the regulations. This rule, which was finalized in November of 2008, seeks to more closely align the Medicaid definition of outpatient hospital services more to the Medicare definition. If implemented this rule could have detrimental effects on Medicaid patient access to physical therapy services in the outpatient hospital setting. APTA has been very involved with trying to block implementation of this rule and will be recommending for rescission of the rule by the June 1, 2009 comment deadline.

### **CMS Proposes Payment and Policy Updates for Skilled Nursing Facilities**

On May 1, 2009, CMS released a proposed rule that would update the payment rates for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) for fiscal year 2010 by 2.1 percent or \$660 million. The rule also seeks to reduce SNF payments by \$390 million, or 1.2 percent lower than payments for FY 2009. This adjustment in SNF payments is an effort to

rebalance an earlier adjustment to the case-mix indexes (CMIs). In addition to recalibrating and updating the SNF PPS payment rates for FY 2010, this proposed rule:

- \* Proposes a revised case-mix classification methodology (RUG-IV) and implementation schedule for FY 2011, reflecting updated staff time measurement data derived from the recently-completed Staff Time and Resource Intensity Verification (STRIVE) project;

- \* Invites comment on a possible new rate component to account for the use of non-therapy ancillaries (as recommended by Med-PAC);

- \* Includes information on the transition to the Minimum Data Set, Version 3.0 (MDS 3.0) redesigned nursing home resident assessment instrument, including an implementation schedule; and
- \* Invites comment on a possible new requirement for the quarterly reporting of nursing home staffing data.

For further information, see [www.cms.hhs.gov/center/snf.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/snf.asp). Public comments on the proposal will be accepted until June 30, 2009. A summary of the proposed rule will also be available on the APTA website shortly.

**(continued page 3)**

## Wyoming Federal Affairs Liaison - Kelsey Kean,

The environment for health care debate was more lively this year than it has been for the last 5 years that I have attended the Federal Advocacy forum in Washington, DC. The forum included many speakers, including many members of Congress from both sides of the aisle. All are in agreement that finally Washington is going to address health care legislation and likely do it before the August recess. The question remains: How will Congress change health care delivery system? Currently it is estimated that health care industry makes up nearly 18 percent of U.S. economy and cost are skyrocketing above inflation. Another unknown is who is going to be included at the table along the legislative process, the uninsured, the insured, the providers ( i.e. the physical therapist, or just the medical doctors), and the insurance companies. All the speakers at the forum are confident that Congress will not pass legislation that means going to a one payer system and President Obama does not want a one payer system.

I met with Representative Lummis, and briefly with Senator Barrasso. Senator Enzi was unable to make my meeting time, but I was able to meet with his staff. I laid out the

*The question remains: How will Congress change the health care delivery system?*

following main issues for physical therapy for the WY Congressional delegation:

- Direct Access for Medicare Beneficiaries (HR 1829/S. 950)
- Therapy Cap Repeal (HR 43/S. 46)
- Adding Physical Therapists to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (HR 988/S. 1057)

**If you have not e-mailed, called or faxed in a letter, don't let another day go by.** The next

step beyond the letter is to discuss physical therapy issues with Senator Enzi, Senator Barrasso, and Representative Lummis the next time they are in town for a meeting or you bump into them. Now is the time you can have some real influence as they ramp up on health care re-

form. Also, encourage your patients to contact our delegation. There are many resources available on the APTA website on government affairs including example letters. If you want to have someone from WY Congressional delegation come to your facility for a practice visit contact me as I have resources on how to do this. I may be reached at 307-637-4821 or at [kelseykean@yahoo.com](mailto:kelseykean@yahoo.com).

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CMS Issues Proposed Payment and Policy Updates for IRFs for 2010 The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a proposed rule [http://www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2009-10078\\_PI.pdf](http://www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2009-10078_PI.pdf) for payment of inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) services for FY 2010 that updates payment rates and clarifies criteria for selection of patients for admission to IRFs and care in the IRF setting. In addition to the proposed rule, CMS posted draft revisions to the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual that are open for public comment.

## WYPTA FALL CONFERENCE

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

The WYPTA is pleased to announce the annual fall conference to be held on October 3—4 in Casper, WY. This year's conference features two options for continuing education:

- \* **NDT/SI**
- \* **Developing Strength and Conditioning Programs**

See pages 8 and 9 for specific course descriptions

**Elections** for WYPTA executive board positions will be held this year. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in your chapter. Positions up for election this year are President, Vice President, Secretary, and PTA Caucus.

Also the WYPTA is seeking nominations for the Doris Chaffin Award. Please contact Kathy Day at 307-235-3910 for more information.

## WYPTA Recognizes Clinics with 100% Membership!

The American Physical Therapy Association is sponsoring a facility membership challenge. The membership challenge is to have all PT's and PTA's in the facility be members of the APTA. For the clinics and facilities that have 100% membership, the APTA is offering these incentives:

- Framed certificate for display at your clinic
- Recognition in APTA publications
- Press release to sent to your local media, such as the newspaper or radio
- Going green option of having one *Physical Therapy Journal* be sent to your clinic to avoid duplication

Interested in taking the "Facility Challenge"? Go to the APTA website at [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org) and click on the membership information section. Or contact Daniel McGill at 1-800-999-2782 ext. 8577. You may also contact Kathy Day at 307-235-3910 for information about joining the APTA and WYPTA.

### **Community Hospital Physical Therapy**

Torrington, WY

### **Four Pines Physical Therapy**

Jackson, WY

### **Wind City Physical Therapy**

Casper, WY

### **Gillette Physical Therapy, P.C.**

Gillette, WY

The WYPTA congratulates these clinics and recognizes their commitment to the APTA and WYPTA!

## Notice to licensees of changes to the Practice Act that will become effective July 1, 2009

- Gives the Wyoming Board of Physical Therapy authority to obtain injunctions in an appropriate court;
- Requires criminal background checks of applicants for licensure and certification;
- Amends definitions, including the definition of “physical therapy”;
- Distinguishes between the Board’s issuance of licenses to physical therapists and certificates to physical therapist assistants;
- Removes the Temporary License
- Authorizes the employment under supervision of physical therapy aides;
- Provides exception to licensing requirements for student interns, federally employed physical therapists, instructors at seminars, athletic team physical therapists, consulting physical therapists and in the case of state or national emergencies;
- Requires that a Board member who is a physical therapist have been a Wyoming licensed therapist for at least three years;
- Amends the Board’s powers and duties;
- Revises examination and licensing requirements for therapists and therapy assistants;
- Amends grounds for discipline of license and certificate holders;
- Provides civil immunity to Board members, Board employees and persons reporting information to the Board in good faith without fraud or malice;
- License & certificate renewals expire on October 1;

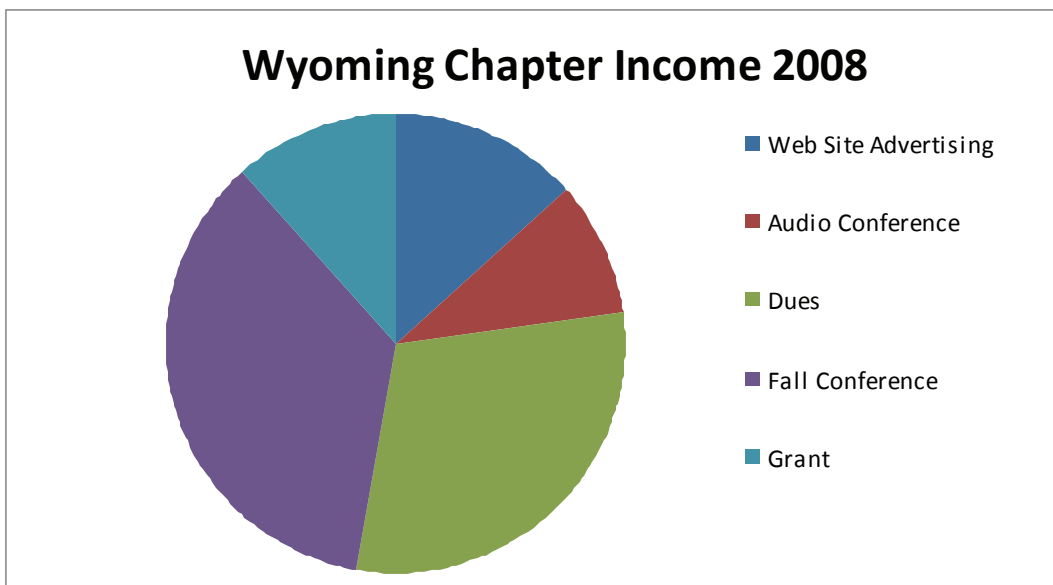
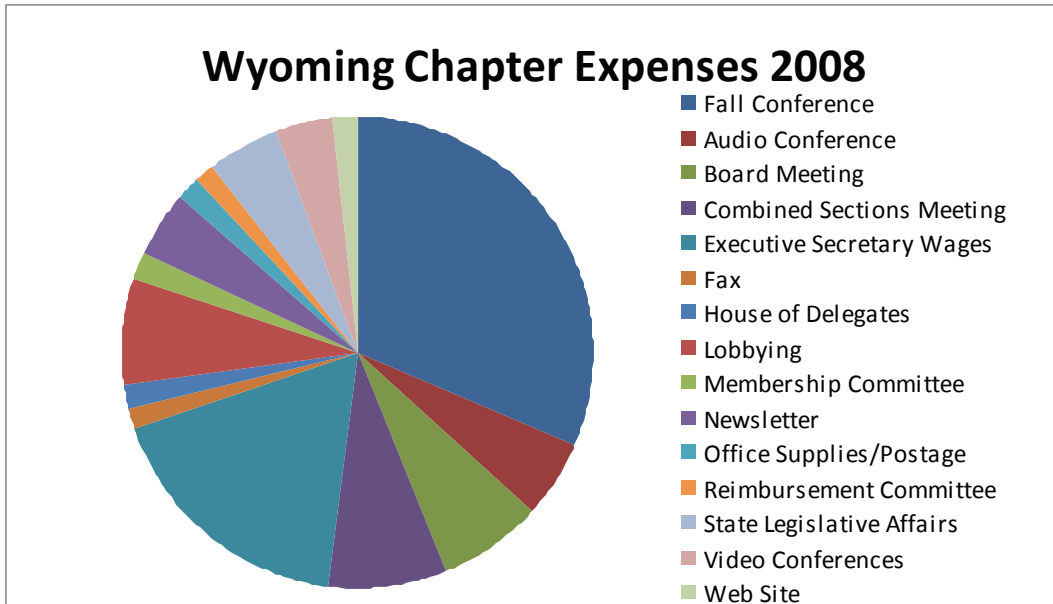
Adds requirements for continuing competency;

All physical therapists and physical therapist assistants renew on January 1, 2010. After the January 1, 2010 renewal the expiration date becomes October 1, 2010. Following the October 1, 2010 renewal, continuing education will be required per new statute. License and certificate holders will be required to complete twenty (20) contact hours of continuing education to be earned October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2012 as defined in final Rules & Regulations.

**Governor Dave Freudenthal signs the Wyoming Physical Therapy Practice Act.**



## Treasurer’s Report—Jason Kamm, PT



Inflows in 2008 for the Wyoming Chapter totaled 30,202.20. Outflows in 2008 totaled 21,694.85. the overflow total was 8507.35. The charts included above give the break down of where our income originates and where our expenses were spent. Please contact Jason Kamm, PT Treasurer for WYPTA at [jasonkamm@peoplefirstrehab.com](mailto:jasonkamm@peoplefirstrehab.com) for any questions.

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST AND PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

Needed for an innovative and growing health care organization in Casper, WY. (Permanent, full-time position)

**Job Description:**

Our Therapist promotes a healing and nurturing environment by responding to the medical, physical, psychological and social needs of our patients

Provide state of the art care and improve overall wellness of our patients

Superior rehabilitative services to restore and obtain maximum function potential and improve overall wellness of our patients

Our therapists work with top-notch specialized physicians and leaders who provide outstanding rehabilitation services to their patients

**Company Benefits:**

Dedicated to the recovery of individuals who have functional deficits as a result of injury or illness

Competitive compensation, negotiable with experience, Comprehensive benefit package, excellent health insurance plans, Sign on bonuses, 401K retirement plan, and Vacation packages

**Requirements:**

Bachelors Degree from accredited Physical Therapy program, Masters degree a plus

Associates Degree from accredited Physical Therapist Assistant program

Active therapist license in the state of Wyoming

New graduates will be considered

Excellent communicator, dependable and detail oriented

ASA Professionals, LLC. Debbie Elliott

Phone: 864-283-8000

Email: [Debbie@asaprofessionals.com](mailto:Debbie@asaprofessionals.com)

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST—MANAGER FOR REHAB SERVICES**

At Banner Health's Community Hospital in Torrington, WY, you will find a different type of opportunity. The chance to step back, take a breath. Boasting a nurse-to-patient ratio that is the best in the nation (1:3:1), we are a 25 bed critical access hospital and a 75 bed long term care facility. We have provided thoughtful care to the residents of southeast WY and bordering NE communities since 1949. Torrington is located in Gosham County, WY, Experience the vast recreational opportunities of WY including many lakes and the nearby Laramie Peak and Medicine Bow national Forest areas. Colorado's Rocky Mountains and only 3 hours drive from Denver. We are currently seeking a full-time Rehab Services manager to join our team.

**Requirements:**

Graduate of an accredited school of physical therapy

Current WY PT license

Minimum 3 years experience in hospital-based PT required, preferably including inpatient, outpatient and home care

Advanced education and management experience preferred to include: 1) supervisory experience 2) ability to analyze, problems solve and generate positive outcomes 3) responsible fiscal management 4) development and performance of quality management activities, 5) ability to promote and deliver excellent customer service to patients, physicians, coworkers and staff

BLS certification

Working knowledge of regulatory standards and reimbursement

Banner health offers growth opportunities and many other benefits. Our hospitals are outstanding, updated, high-quality facilities with the latest technological advances. If you're looking for a career with great benefits that makes your future a priority, look to Banner health. Visit [www.BannerHealth.com/Carreers](http://www.BannerHealth.com/Carreers) to apply, or for more information email [Great.Mitchell@BannerHealth.com](mailto:Great.Mitchell@BannerHealth.com) or call 307-534-7157 Job ID 64176

## Fall Conference Courses

### Developing Strength and Conditioning Programs

**Course Description:** A two day seminar encompassing the scientific principles of exercise prescription, nutrition, and appropriate testing and evaluation procedures related to a strength and conditioning program. This course will help prepare those individuals wanting sit for the test to become a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS). The course has been offered at a number of other state PT chapter meetings and has been very well received. This seminar is now offered as a semester long elective at many PT schools in the nation.

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course participants will:

- \* Learn the concepts and applications of the exercise sciences in relation to exercise program design.
- \* Learn appropriate testing and evaluation procedures related to strength and conditioning of their clients.
- \* Learn exercise techniques to be applied to their specific client population.
- \* Learn how to design aerobic and anaerobic exercise programs based on current scientific evidence.
- \* How to apply exercise prescription principles.
- \* Ideas on the organization and administration of an exercise facility.

**Course Participants:** The course is offered to PTs, PTAs, ATCs, and OTs. Those who work with athletes, such as coaches in the school districts will also benefit from the course and are invited to attend. Those wishing to sit for the CSCS certification are encouraged to visit: [www.nasca-cc.org](http://www.nasca-cc.org) for further information.

### Maximizing the Functional Outcomes of Treatment by Combining Approaches: Neurodevelopmental Treatment and Sensory Integration

#### About the Instructor:

Bonnie Boenig M.Ed, OTR/L is the Manager of Therapy Services at the Achievement Centers for Children in Cleveland Ohio. Bonnie is an NDT Instructor, and is trained in Sensory Integration theory and treatment. Bonnie has 30 years of experience specializing in pediatrics, utilizing neuro-developmental and sensory integration approaches, in a wide variety of clinical and school based settings. Bonnie is also trained in Myofascial Release and Crainosacral Therapy, and incorporates these approaches into an integrated blend of strategies for a comprehensive treatment approach. Bonnie has lectured extensively and presented continuing education workshops and seminars nationally and internationally.

#### Course Description:

Sensory Integration and NDT theories and treatment approaches have distinct differences, but can be combined to provide a comprehensive therapy program for individuals diagnosed with a variety of movement

disorders. This two-day course will focus on providing insights into theory and practical application of sensory systems knowledge in combination with applied NDT principles of assessment and treatment.

This course is presented in an interactive format will include lecture, case studies, and problem solving opportunities, offering a platform for a diverse learning experience. The material presented will help to expand assessment and treatment options, and will provide practical, take-home strategies to the clinician.

**Learning Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this workshop, the participant will be able to:

1. Describe the impact of sensory systems deficits on movement disorders and behavior
2. Describe the basics of the theoretical basis for NDT and Sensory Integration
3. Identify the difference between a modulation disorder, under-responsive sensory system, and motor planning difficulties
4. Describe how sensory integration impacts learning, self-regulation, oral motor, gross motor and fine motor development and control.
5. Identify specific handling techniques associated with the NDT approach
6. Explain how knowledge of the sensory systems and the clinician's awareness of sensory related responses and behaviors are critical to the successful use of NDT treatment strategies

Understand the basic concepts of designing an integrated treatment plan

**Agenda:**

Day One

- 8:00–8:30 Introduction to course material
- 8:30-9:30 Theoretical Foundations: Neuro-developmental Treatment (NDT)
- 9:30- 10:30 Theoretical Foundations: Sensory Integration (SI)
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45- 12:00 Treatment Principles & Strategies: NDT
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00- 2:45 Treatment Principles and Applications: SI
- 2:45-3:00 Break
- 3:00-4:30 Clinical Reasoning & Problem Solving:  
Sensory processing problems and functional impairments

Day Two

- 8:00-9:45 Assessment and treatment approaches with children with sensory integrative dysfunction (Developmental Coordination Disorder)
- 9:45-10:00 Break
- 10:00-12:00 Assessment and treatment approaches with children with cerebral palsy
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch and State Meeting—lunch provided by the WYPTA
- 1:00- 2:30 Combining strategies & blending approaches – treatment planning

WYPTA  
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**We're on the web!**  
**[www.wypta.com](http://www.wypta.com)**