



# APTA COLORADO ADVOCACY GRANT

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## June 2022 Report

### APTA COLORADO

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# APTA Colorado End of Session Report

## *As submitted by Colorado Lobbyist*

APTA-CO Priorities Targeted Medicaid Rate Increases: The FY2022-23 state budget included targeted rate increases for any PT billing codes that were under a certain benchmark. Starting July 1, 2022, any PT billing codes that are under 80% of the benchmark set by the Medicaid Provider Rate Review Advisory Committee (MPRRAC) will be brought up to 80%. An earlier recommendation would have ratcheted down rates for any codes that were above 100% of the benchmark. That recommendation was ultimately rejected by the Joint Budget Committee. An across-the board provider rate increase of 2% is also included in the budget. All Medicaid billing codes for physical therapy will receive this increase starting July 1, 2022.

Kepro PARs Pause: The lobby team worked before and during session with HCPF on the issues with PAR denials from HCPF's vendor, Kepro. HCPF was less than responsive to our requests for clarity on the matter. We engaged legislators on the issue who publicly asked HCPF for answers on their stakeholder outreach and to push back on their proposed pause on PARs denials until July 1. In the end, HCPF made the decision to pause all PARs denials for certain services until March 2024. They have begun a stakeholder process in the department, which has been less than satisfactory. However, the issue is changing hands internally at the Department to an office which we have had better success at working with in the past.

HB22-1263 Sunset Licensure of Acupuncturists - Monitor - Passed The sunset of the Acupuncturist Practice Act was up this year. They solicited feedback from other provider groups, including APTA-CO in the process. We submitted feedback particularly around how they structure their assistants and training requirements. In the end, all of our suggestions were incorporated into the bill. The bill passed both chambers and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

HB22-1068 Equine Therapy Medicaid - Support - Passed The Occupational Therapist worked to introduce a bill that would makes Medicaid reimbursement

available for certain therapies using equine movement, conditional upon federal approval. The APTA-CO GAC took a support position on the bill. The bill passed both chambers and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

SB22-210 Staffing Agency Licensing - Amend - Passed (Amended) This bill establishes a regulatory and reporting structure for supplemental health care staffing agencies. The bill as originally written included staffing agencies that employed nurses, nursing assistants, physical therapists, and occupational therapists. APTA-CO had concerns that the inclusion of physical therapist without explicit reference to the PT Practice Act would inadvertently leave those PTs without protections. We successfully lobbied to take mentions of PTs/OTs taken out of the bill entirely.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The second half of 2022 will be devoted to finalizing language for a Utilization Management bill to be introduced in 2023 and preparation for Colorado PT Sunset 2023-24.