What’s Coming This Fall

- November Election
- Lame Duck Session

What Does this Mean for our Federal Issues?
Therapy Cap/SGR Reform

- Congress has until March 31, 2015 to repeal the therapy cap and reform the sustainable growth rate (SGR) or extend the exceptions process.
- Congress could address therapy cap/SGR in the Lame Duck session, but it is unlikely.
- A lot depends on what happens in November - do the Democrats retain the majority in the Senate, or do the Republicans take over?
What Can You Do Now?

Since it is unlikely that Congress will take action on the therapy cap/SGR reform before the end of the year, we want to generate as much support for repealing the cap as possible heading into 2015.

APTA and the Therapy Cap Coalition have been working to get 218 cosponsors on the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act (HR 713/S 367) in the House. On September 15, this threshold of support was reached.

218 is a majority of the House. We want to be able to go to the House leadership in the beginning of 2015, and tell them that a majority of the House members support repealing the therapy cap. This will help when they are working on SGR reform between January and March of 2015.

If your legislator is not a cosponsor, ask him/her to join the majority and to sign-onto this bill as a cosponsor.

You can use the APTA Action app (http://www.apta.org/ActionApp/) to see if your House member is a cosponsor. You can also look up the cosponsors on congress.gov by typing H.R. 713 in the search box.
Concussions

- Three bills have been introduced that include physical therapists as part of a multidisciplinary team of health care providers trained to diagnose and treat concussions in school-aged children:
  - *Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act* (H.R. 3532)
  - *Supporting Athletes, Families, and Educators to Protect the Lives of Athletic Youth Act* (SAFE PLAY Act) (S. 2718/H.R. 5324)
- Establishes guidelines around prevention, identification, treatment, and management of concussions in school-age children, and acknowledges the role that physical therapists (PTs) have in evaluating and treating these injuries.
- APTA has worked with the sponsors of these bills to help spread awareness of the role physical therapists play in concussion management.
- These bills were also the focus of the 2014 Flash Action Strategy. With over 10,000 letters sent to Congress supporting this issue.
- Concussion prevention and management—particularly in youth sports—has been a particular focus of APTA over recent years, and will continue to be a focus in the 114th Congress as a public safety issue gaining national attention.
Locum Tenens

- APTA has been working with the House Energy and Commerce Committee to generate movement for the *Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act* (H.R. 3426/S. 2818).

- This bill would allow physical therapists who participate in the Medicare program to bring in another licensed physical therapist when they are temporarily absent due to illness, pregnancy, vacation, or continuing medical education. APTA views this as a technical fix to the law.

- Recently, the *Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act* (S. 2818) was introduced in the Senate by Senators Grassley (R-IA) and Casey (D-PA).

- **What can you do?** We need to generate more cosponsors for H.R. 3426/S. 2818, especially House members on the Energy and Commerce Committee. Ask your legislators to cosponsor this bill.
Also Working On...

- Self-Referral
  - *Promoting Integrity in Medicare Act* (PIMA) (H.R. 2914)

- PT Workforce

- Opt-Out
  - *Medicare Patient Empowerment Act* (H.R. 1310)

- Rehabilitation Research
  - *Rehabilitation Improvement Act* (S. 1027)
What’s Next?

- Congress will be in recess most of the fall for the election, which means legislators will be in their states/districts campaigning. This is a great time to schedule a meeting with your legislators at a local office or to volunteer for their campaign.

- If you do not have time to meet with your legislators or volunteer on a campaign, you can help support legislators who are friendly to the physical therapy profession by donating to the PT-PAC. PT-PAC recently launched a $20 campaign, designed to increase participation in the PAC. *If every APTA member gave $20 a year to the PT-PAC, we would be the #1 health care political action committee in the country.* To find out more about the campaign, visit [www.ptpac.org](http://www.ptpac.org).

- The 2015 Capitol Hill Day will be combine with NEXT, June 4-5, 2015. This is a shortened version of the Federal Advocacy Forum. If you are attending the House of Delegates meeting or NEXT in 2015, consider attending the Capitol Hill Day as well. We want to have 1,000 PTs, PTAs, and students storm the Capitol and meet with legislators to discuss PT issues.
Questions?

All Grassroots inquiries please direct to Michael Matlack at michaelmatlack@apta.org for support as Lindsay Still has moved to her new position in private payment.