



PT • COMPACT

Important Information Regarding Medicare Recognition of Compact Privileges

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia, January 8, 2020 —The Physical Therapy Compact Commission (PTCC) would like to provide you with information regarding an issue related to compact privilege holder participation in the Medicare program through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Late last year, PTCC staff were alerted to a situation where an individual with a compact privilege was not allowed to enroll as a provider with Medicare in order to make claims for services in a member state. Since that time, PT Compact staff and colleagues at the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) have been working closely on this to determine the extent of the issue and coordinate a strategy to resolve it as quickly as possible.

To date, more than 1,000 compact privileges have been issued in eighteen states and the PTCC has been made aware of only two cases of physical therapists with compact privileges having difficulty with Medicare provider enrollment.

PTCC and APTA staff are currently in dialogue with CMS to discuss our concerns and ensure that compact privileges are properly recognized as the legal equivalent of a license. We hope to have a resolution soon. However, during recent conversations in December, it has come to our attention that CMS may interpret existing regulations in a way that does not recognize compact privileges as equal to state licensure for the purposes of the Medicare program. **Therefore, although we do not believe the denial of Medicare enrollment and reimbursements to be prevalent, in light of the current interpretation of some at CMS, we recommend that any compact privilege holder review their billing practices and consider whether to bill Medicare until this matter is formally resolved by CMS.**

The quick resolution of this issue is a priority for the PTCC and APTA. We assure you that when there is additional information to share or a resolution has been reached further communication will be sent. Please contact the PTCC at info@ptcompact.org if you have any questions.

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Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (PTCC) is a state-based solution to the challenges of interstate licensure portability for physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapist assistants (PTAs). It will improve patient access to physical therapy services by giving eligible licensees in participating states a faster, less expensive alternative to traditional licensure. There are currently twenty-six members of the PTCC: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

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