



IOWA OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY ASSOCIATION

Dear Iowa Occupational Therapist Colleagues & Friends,

The Iowa Occupational Therapist Association (IOTA) is reaching out to apprise you of a change to Iowa Medicaid's reimbursement for therapy services to our colleagues in outpatient clinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centers. In May of this year, therapists who provide services through the Medicaid system have experienced an increase in the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) greatly impacting reimbursement of speech therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy. No longer do these three disciplines have separate "silos" for reimbursement but rather are now lumped into a single "silo" resulting in only one of these therapy services being reimbursed at 100%. As an example, on a given day, one therapy service would be reimbursed at the full amount while **ALL** other therapy services provided on that same date are reduced by 26%.

The impact is to such a degree that children and/or adults requiring more than one therapy service at various agencies, private practices, clinics and rehabilitation centers across Iowa may no longer be able to access those services on the same day. You can imagine the strain on these families with costly travel and coordination of therapy, not to mention the loss of collaboration between therapists. We have also been made aware that some agencies are having to reduce therapy times in order to continue working within the new method of being reimbursed.

To date, IOTA board members, legislative & advocacy committee members, allied therapy associations and other advocates have actively pursued conversations with Iowa Medicaid Director Mike Randol, Deputy Director Mikki Stier as well as the Governor's Policy Advisor Paige Thorson to request that the MPPR be halted and follow wording in the Iowa Department of Human Services budget signed by the Governor earlier in the spring which states "The Department of Human Services shall review all current Medicaid fee schedules and shall submit a report to the governor and the general assembly by January 15, 2019, regarding how the current rates compare to the equivalent Medicare fee schedules or other appropriate reimbursement methodologies for specific services and including a plan of phased in implementation or any changes".

We are at a critical point that requires a strong grass roots movement from Iowa speech-language pathologists as well as Iowa families and their loved ones who are being negatively impacted by this change. **WE NEED ALL HANDS IN TO ACT NOW!** We urge you to speak with your patients and encourage them to [join us and our allied health therapy partners in a letter mailing and phone call campaign](#) focused on gaining the attention of the Governor. It is Governor Reynolds who can direct the Department of Human Services and Iowa Medicaid Enterprise to cease in moving forward with the MPPR changes and follow the legislation passed and signed by the Governor this past legislative session.

Attached with this email, you should have received two guiding documents to help develop your letter— one from the perspective of the Occupational Therapist; one from the consumer/family perspective. [These letters NEED to be personalized, printed and mailed \(addresses are included\)](#). Furthermore, for those who would also be willing to make a phone call, talking points are listed in bulleted form along with the contact information for Governor Reynold's office.

Time is of the essence, please don't delay!

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