

Are You a PT or PTA in Maine?

Discover the Benefits of Belonging to APTA and the Maine Chapter!

The Maine Chapter represents 600 of more than 85,000 physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, and student members of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Association membership is an investment in your current professional status and your future financial well-being. Membership in the Maine Chapter gives you access to all the tools and resources offered by APTA, plus more that are specific to practice in the state of Maine.

Advocating for You

The Maine Chapter partners with APTA's State Government Affairs to reach state legislative goals and defend the physical therapy scope of practice from infringement. Efforts include tracking and analyzing state legislation, meeting with state representatives, developing grassroots efforts, formulating legislative strategies, and maintaining a strong relationship with the State Board for Physical Therapy. Recent major accomplishments include passage of a new Maine law that will give physical therapists and other health care providers additional protections when they enter into contracts for preferred provider arrangements. Public Law 399 (LD 1466) will require health plans to disclose certain information and materials to providers at the time a preferred provider arrangement contract is offered. The legislation will prohibit contracts that allow health insurance companies to make changes to key terms, such as reimbursement rates, without the provider's written consent after the agreement has been entered.

Navigating Payment Policy for High-Quality Patient Care

The chapter's Payment & Policy Committee stays on top of changing form and code requirements, and shares the latest information with members. APTA also provides members with the knowledge to succeed in today's age of managed care, including the Affordable Care Act.

Promoting the Benefits of Physical Therapy

APTA features a variety of public relations and marketing tools to help you share the benefits of physical therapy with consumers and other health care professionals. MoveForwardPT.com includes interactive tools and information for consumers and health care professionals, plus consumer-oriented handouts. BrandBeat empowers you to strengthen the physical therapy brand, including guidelines and training to help you live the "Move Forward" brand. The Chapter's Public Relations Committee is your gateway for public relations for physical therapy!

Connecting You with Colleagues for Networking and Collaboration

Whether it's through the chapter's online community or a chapter continuing education course, a membership meeting, a district networking event, or a national conference, such as APTA's Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) or NEXT Conference, speaking with your peers is invaluable. Chapter members can tap into the collective knowledge and expertise of the chapter's membership, and have access to experts at APTA when you need it. Discover even more opportunities to connect by joining one of 18 specialty sections, many of which have their own events at the chapter level.

Saving You Money

With membership come discounts on chapter and national continuing education opportunities and publications. Networking may wind up saving you more than you think - community members strive to share valuable tips and strategies to help your business thrive. Specially priced APTA-endorsed insurance and financial benefits will protect you from risk and help you save money. You may find that you can't afford NOT to belong!

Keeping You Informed

In addition to the Maine Chapter's website and Online Community, the chapter sends out monthly electronic newsletters to keep you informed on the latest news of interest in the state. APTA membership also gives you print and online access to *PT in Motion* magazine and *PT Journal* (PTJ), online access to *PT in Motion: News Now* newsfeed, the online *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*, and APTA podcasts that provide regular updates on advocacy, education, and more.

Promoting Evidence-based Practice

Your APTA membership gives you quick and easy access to clinical research that supports evidence-based physical therapy practice across practice settings and specialty areas. APTA's Open Door provides free online access to text articles and abstracts from more than 2,500 health care-oriented periodicals. *PT Journal* features state-of-the-art research, case reports, technical reports, literature reviews, and perspectives on clinical and professional issues. Access to PTNow makes it easier for you to apply the best available evidence to patient care. And there's more coming all the time!

Strengthening Your Expertise with Clinical and Practice Resources

Connect to a wealth of clinical and practice-related resources that provide high-quality care to your patients, meet your professional goals, and help you thrive in your practice. Members enjoy best-practice documentation resources and guidelines on supervision of personnel, health information technology, and more. Plus free advertising via Find a PT, APTA's consumer

search engine, helps connect you with potential patients – and the chapter includes this on their website as well.

Advancing You to the Next Level

Continue your career development in clinical practice and fast track your education and career by completing credentialed post-professional clinical residency or fellowship programs, or beginning the path to ABPTS board certification in any of eight clinical specialization areas for PTs. PTAs can receive Recognition of Advanced Proficiency in 9 areas of practice. PTs and PTAs can also earn recognition as an APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor. The Maine Chapter is expanding our support of these programs – check with us to see the latest!

Just for Students

Students are especially encouraged to join APTA and the Maine Chapter! This is your chance to begin establishing the relationships that will support your career. The Student Assembly encourages involvement and helps you get in "The Loop" and build relationships within your program and chapter. Share ideas in the Student Assembly Pulse, written by students, for students. Profit from scholarships, awards, and grants and learn the ins and outs of effective student-loan debt management. Maximize your clinical rotations, utilize employment resources just for students, and ensure that your resume is as thorough and professional as you are. Search for positions in physical therapy in Maine using the chapter's Job Bank, or nationwide with APTA.

Especially for Employers

Ask your employer or supervisor about sponsoring employees for APTA and chapter membership. Employer benefits include:

- reduce the need for billing and documentation supervision
- improve recruitment of new employees and retention of current ones
- attract clients seeking professional treatment and care
- save on your facility's professional development and continuing education expenses
- Ensure your patients receive the highest quality of care

For additional details, ask to see the chapter's Especially for Employers brochure.

To sponsor membership or to join as an individual, visit www.apta.org/Join or call an APTA staff member at 800/999-2782, ext 3395.