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www.aptasce-wm.org

## President's Message

### Greetings...

## I Hope You All Have Had an Enjoyable Summer!

It is really hard to believe that the new school year has just begun.

As I begin to pass the baton to, Bob Sellin, our newly elected president, we have few unfinished projects on the horizon.

- Building membership remains a key objective. Sharon Lucich and Karen Gibbs will be attending the Student Conclave this fall to educate and recruit students into the section. Our current membership is 955; 798 (PT) 61(PTA), 96(Students). ***KUDOS to the entire Membership committee for their dedication, ideas and laughter.***
- The Electrotherapy and EMG Practice committees have begun work on the curriculum guidelines associated with their respective areas of practice. This is a tremendous undertaking and we look forward to their progress.
- The Wound Management Special Interest Group (SIG) continues to flourish. They are working through reimbursement and practice issues. Please see the proposed statement on debridement from the APTA.


- Stacy Fisher will be attending the State Government Affairs Forum this fall on behalf of the section. Stacy always follows up her attendance with a report to the membership. Please read her update in this and future newsletters.
- We have received the proposal from APTA for executive services. The Executive Committee will review this at our next conference call.

I am also certain that the progress with healthcare reform is not far from any of our minds. APTA has started sending out timely updates on Healthcare Reform. Mike Parker, our publications chair, has been emailing the updates to Section members. Please be certain to notify Mike if your email address has been changed. Mike's email: mparker@umary.edu.

Have a fabulous day!

Thank you again for all of your support...

*Your President,*



Newsletter of the  
CEWMS of the  
American Physical  
Therapy Association

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## Reimbursement News

**By Pam Unger**  
President CEWM Section

### Question: Can Physical Therapists Perform "Excisional Debridement"?

There seems to be a significant reimbursement issue when these services are delivered in the inpatient setting. There is excellent literature from both the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice* and from the American Hospital Association to support the role of physical therapists in the delivery of excisional debridement. Note though that every state practice act is different and it is important to check your practice act to ensure that these services are not excluded.

In describing Integumentary Repair and Protection Techniques (Chapter 3, What Types of Interventions Do Physical Therapists Provide?), the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice* notes that these techniques are intended to "...enhance wound perfusion, promote an optimal wound environment, remove excess exudate from a wound complex and eliminate nonviable tissue

from a wound bed." It further notes that integumentary repair and protection techniques may include non-selective debridement and selective debridement including debridement with agents such as autolysis, enzymatic debridement, and sharp debridement.

The literature of the American Hospital Association is helpful in further defining these services and the appropriateness of their delivery by physical therapists. The following excerpts from their literature support the comments of the *Guide*:

Excisional debridement is defined as the "cutting away of devitalized tissue, necrosis, or slough" (*AHA Coding Clinic for ICD-9-CM*, 1988, fourth quarter, page 5). Documentation of sharp debridement is not always indicative of excisional debridement. Description of sharp debridement must be documented as definite cutting away of tissue before excisional debridement (code 86.22)

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# See you in San Diego!

After record attendance last year in Las Vegas, the Section is gearing up to bring you more outstanding sessions and expert speakers in sunny San Diego. The conference will be held February 18-20, 2010. This year, SCEWM will host a preconference entitled, *Emerging Pressure Ulcer Care: Options, Updates and Outcomes*. This one day precon will provide not only the latest updates from the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, but also key treatment, prevention and outcome tracking tips for this special population. Please plan to join us for this important preconference meeting on February 17, 2010.

Our programming schedule is full so plan to attend all three days to optimize your experience. Section programming during the main conference will feature topics such as:

- Treatment of the burn wound in the outpatient setting
- Diagnosis and management of isolated spinal accessory and long thoracic nerve lesions after radical neck dissection
- The prognostic value of electromyography and nerve conduction testing for clinical outcomes and function
- The promise of telemedicine for wound management
- Microbiology of the local wound environment, bacterial strategies for immune system evasion
- The clinical use of ES for pain control: there is more than one option

- Clinical electrophysiological testing of the plantar nerves, friend or foe?
- Functional ES for persons with neurologic gait dysfunction: theories to practice

And of course, peer-reviewed SCEWM research platform and poster presentations

The SCEWM has also co-sponsored several sessions including:

- Health literacy and the older adult: implications for PT practice
- Communities of practice: keys to designing effective clinical education experiences
- The physical therapist in the home health wound care team
- The acute care physical therapist's role in pressure ulcer prevention
- Integrating curriculum content through case based instruction: from rationale to design to implementation

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Section business meetings that occur each year during CSM. This is a great opportunity to network, find out the latest Section activities or learn how to get more involved.

#### **Section Business meeting:**

Friday, February 19, 2010 at 6 pm

#### **WMSIG Roundtable meeting:**

Saturday, February 20, 2010 at 8 am

A complete schedule of SCEWM programming will be published in the next newsletter. If you have any questions about CSM 2010, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Albaugh or Stephanie Woelfel. We hope these topics peak your interest and we look forward to seeing you there!

## Welcome New Members

**12/12/08 TO 8/14/09**

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Lisa Ruiz            | Richard Ball          |
| Sherrie Lee          | Akram Elzend          |
| Anup Kurien          | MInera Frias          |
| Phillip Munoz        | Yamilette Ronda-Velez |
| Kimberly Price       | Erin Anderson         |
| Stephen Spence       | Nicole Puller         |
| James Parado         | Dan Colcer            |
| Colleen Sullivan     | Dominador Papa        |
| Ramil Mendoza        | Joseph Barnett        |
| Allison Breker       | Alexis Stahler        |
| Megan Sherry         | Sarah Blakey          |
| Sherri Hendon-Shouse | Yolanda Osorio        |
| April Heintze        | Maria Bravo           |
| Jamie Blanchard      | Kerri Ducharme        |
| Leann Brandesky      | Michelle White        |
| Veronica Bolus       | Diego Duenas-Gonzalez |

### **Clinical Electrophysiology and Wound Management Section**

Michael Parker, Editor

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**Advertising prices:** Full-page/\$800, 3/4 page/\$600, 1/2 page/\$400, 1/4 page/\$200. These rates are for all three issues. The price is prorated for ads placed in less than three issues.

## Government Affairs Information

By Stacy J, Fisher, PT, DPT  
Government Affairs Liaison

Between May 16th and the 19th well over 100 Physical Therapists, Physical Therapy Assistants and students gathered in Alexandria, VA to attend the 2009 Federal Advocacy Forum. While it was not the traditional location we had all become accustomed to, it went off without a hitch and we rallied to have congress support five active bills, and since then an additional senate bill regarding the student loan repayment.

As you can see below the bills are identified and while we only addressed these three topics, many others are under the watchful eyes of our colleagues on the Government Affairs Committee and the staff at APTA. I have been proud to represent our section and in doing so, I have met with my federal legislators and their aids throughout the year on these issues. Consequently, one of my congresspersons has co-sponsored all three bills and one of my senators has taken the role of lead sponsor on S46.

To date (August 2009 recess) we have the following co-sponsors to the APTA supported bills:

APTA position paper on Medicare Direct

Access – (HR 1829/S. 950) – 84 House co-sponsors and nine Senate co-sponsors;

APTA position paper on *Medicare Therapy Cap Repeal - (HR 43 / S.46)* – 98 House co-sponsors and 22 Senate co-sponsors; and  
APTA position paper on Student Loan Repayment, which is under the National Health Services Corps (HR 988/S1057); it has 75 House co-sponsors and seven Senate co-sponsors.

You can access a link to follow the progress of these bills on <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. I will be attending the State Government Affairs forum in Phoenix this September. While attending this forum, I will provide you with updates on Federal legislation and state's issues.

Thank you for allowing me to represent our section. Attached are photos of my colleagues from Nevada with Congressional members Berkley, Heller, and Titus. Coincidentally, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel was also visiting Washington, and you can see is black limousine (background) in the picture of me standing in front of the Capitol.

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### Reimbursement News

*Continued from page 2*

can be assigned (AHA Coding Clinic for ICD-9-CM, 2004, second quarter, page 5). Debridement can be performed on any body site and does not have to be performed in the operating room to be considered excisional.

Nonexcisional debridement, which is classified to code 86.28, includes “brushing, irrigating, scrubbing, or washing of devitalized tissue, necrosis, or slough” (*AHA Coding Clinic for ICD-9-CM*, 1988, fourth quarter, page 5).

Debridement of the skin that is preparatory to further surgery should not be coded as a separate procedure (*AHA Coding Clinic for ICD-9-CM*, 1991, third quarter, pages 18-19). In addition, do not assign code 86.22 when debridement of an open fracture site is performed. Debridement of the skin is considered inherent for this procedure (*AHA Coding Clinic for ICD-9-CM*, 1995, third quarter, page 12).

Excisional debridement is the definite

cutting away of devitalized tissue, necrosis, or slough that includes cutting outside or beyond the wound margin. Excisional debridement can be performed in the operating room, emergency room or at patient's bedside depending on circumstances such as patient's condition or location availability.

An excisional debridement can be coded when performed by a nurse, therapist, physician assistant or physician. (*See Coding Clinic*, second quarter 2004, page 5, *Coding Clinic*, second quarter 2000, page 9, and *Coding Clinic*, fourth quarter 1988, page 5.)

These comments, and the definitions provided by the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*, clearly indicate that excisional debridement can be performed by physical therapists.



## Clinical Electrophysiology and Wound Management Section's Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting with Members of Congress

# 5



Pictured, starting on the left, front to back are Sue Priestman, PT, Stacy Fisher, PT, Congresswoman Shelley Berkely (NV), and Boyd Etter, PT.



Pictured, starting on the left, Sue Priestman, PT, Congresswoman Dina Titus (NV), and Stacy Fisher, PT.



Stacy Fisher, PT, Government Affairs Liaison, CEWM Section, pictured – in front of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.



Pictured, starting on the left, front to back are Sue Priestman, PT, Stacy Fisher, PT, Boyd Etter, PT, and Congressman Dean Heller (NV).

# 6 Membership Matters

## Membership Matters

**By Karen Gibbs**  
**Membership Committee Chair**

The Section was well represented at APTA's Annual Conference this June in Baltimore. Several Section members served as speakers for the integumentary CEU track that included 15 hours of integumentary education. Thanks to APTA for inviting the Section to develop the educational offering. Also, a big "thank you" goes to Melissa Johnson for coordinating the Section's programming – she did an excellent job! Check out pictures of the event on the website at [www.aptasce-wm.org](http://www.aptasce-wm.org).

The Section will be represented this year in October at the National Student Conclave in Miami. Thanks to Sharon Lucich and Rose Hamm for sending pictures of students involved in wound management – we will proudly display these at the Section booth in the exhibit hall! If anyone else has student related pictures that could be used at the booth, please forward those to me ASAP - it would be really nice to have all three arms of the Section represented in this way.

Our membership continues to hold between 900 and 1,000 members with 938 members as of June. Remember, the best way to really benefit from Section membership is to get involved.

Section speakers at APTA's 2009 Annual Conference: (front to back) Rose Hamm, Pamela Scarborough, Melissa Johnson, Carrie Sussman, Harriett Loehne, Jaimee Haan, Karen Gibbs, Sharon Lucich, Luther Kloth, and Pam Unger.

If you are looking for participation opportunities, please let me know and the Membership Committee will get you started!

Don't forget our next Section gathering will be at CSM in February. I hope many of you will be able to attend the conference and enjoy the beautiful San Diego ocean views. If you haven't been, the convention center in San Diego is right at the ocean with lots of restaurants and shopping – all within beautiful walking distance. Attending the business meeting at CSM is a great venue for learning about everything that is going on in the Section. Also, we'll have the booth open during unopposed exhibit hall hours so please stop by and say hello. If you would like to volunteer to staff the booth for an hour or so, get in touch with me and we'll get you scheduled. If you're presenting at the conference, let us know and we'll recognize your presentation on the website.

As always, we're open to suggestions as to how the Membership Committee can be of more service to you. Please don't hesitate to contact me at [kgibbs@txstate.edu](mailto:kgibbs@txstate.edu). I look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you at the Conclave in October or at CSM early next year. Have a great Fall!



## EMG Corner

By Justin Elliott Director  
State Government Affairs APTA

Jeff Slear, PT, ECS

Treasurer, Section on Clinical Electro  
and Wound Management

So far, 2009 has been the best year in regards to physical therapists and EMG. Not one state has introduced legislation that would prohibit physical therapists from performing EMG/NCV studies. Previous hotbeds in Wisconsin, Texas, and New York have seen no further action. Since most state legislatures have adjourned for the year (NY, CA, OH, PA, NC being the exceptions) it appears that we may be “in the clear” for the rest of 2009.

That being said there are two items of interest. The Mississippi Board of Physical Therapy did adopt new board regulations that specifically acknowledge PT’s who perform EMG. This regulation was adopted by the MS Board of PT this spring and states

*Electromyography (EMG)/nerve conduction studies may be performed by a licensed physical therapist who is certified in electromyography by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists (ABPTS).*

In North Carolina House Bill 1374 was introduced earlier this year in the state legislature. This bill would revise the NC PT practice act.

The legislation revises the definition of “physical therapy” to explicitly state that it includes “the performance of electrodiagnostic, electrophysiologic, and other specialized tests or neuromuscular function or physical capacity.” The legislation has encountered stiff opposition from a number of groups including the NC chiropractors, the NC medical society, as well the neurologists who are specifically opposed to the above mentioned language. The bill is currently in the NC House awaiting action.

## Publication Schedule for the Section Newsletter

By Michael G. Parker, Publications Chair

The Section publishes 3 Newsletters between September 15 and April 17 each year. The following information provides the publication format, deadlines, publication dates, and the planned content.

### Summer/Fall Issue

- E-mailed only
- **Deadlines for advertisements and articles by officers and committee chairs: August 15**
- **Publication Date: September 15**
- **Content:** Includes President’s Message, SIG President’s Message, Officers/committee chair reports, articles/reports from the APTA Summer Meetings, and the planned CSM Program for the subsequent February, (and other content as appropriate/needed)

### Winter Issue

- E-mailed only
- **Deadlines for advertisements and articles by officers and committee chairs: November 15**
- **Publication Date: December 15**
- **Content:** Includes President’s Message, SIG President’s Message, Officers/committee chair reports, and CSM Programming (and other content as appropriate/needed)

### Spring Issue –Hardcopy Via First Class US Mail + Email

- **Hardcopy Issue sent via First Class US Mail to ALL Active Section Members + Emailed + Posted on Section Web Site**
- **Deadlines for advertisements and articles by officers and committee chairs: March 15**
- **Publication Date: April 17**
- **Content:** Includes President’s Message, SIG President’s Message, Officers/committee chair reports, reprints of the CSM Abstracts for both Platform and Poster Research Presentations, and reprints of Abstracts of recent research published by Section members in peer reviewed journals (and other content as appropriate/needed)

## Nominating Committee Update

By Rose Hamm, DPT, CWS  
Committee Chair

Sharon Lucich  
Committee Member

Lisa Van Loos  
Committee Member

The Nominating Committee thanks all of the Section members who voted in the last election and congratulates the following elected officers who will be taking office at the 2010 Combined Sections Meeting:

**President**—Robert Sellin

**Program Chair**—Stephanie Woelfel

**Publication Chair**—Michael Parker

In addition, the proposed Section Bylaw changes were approved. The new Section Bylaws establish a different time frame for elections that will be initiated at the next Section membership meeting in February 2010.

## WMSIG Update

By **Melissa Johnson, PT, CWS**  
Vice President

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the fall and winter months. The most recent update for wound management clinicians is the success of our continuing education series at APTA Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The wound management special interest group recently had the opportunity of presenting 15 hours of continuing education in a series on wound management at the APTA Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Annual Conference has always been limited in continuing education related to wound management. This year, the APTA requested that we enhance wound management education at the Annual Conference. I had the honor of organizing and moderating a group of presenters with an abundance of knowledge and experience. The turnout was positive, with clinicians ranging from newcomers to wound care, to those with experience in various settings. In addition, we had several participants seeking membership to the Clinical Electrophysiology and Wound Management Section. Topics ranged from our role as physical therapists in wound management, to topics about treating patients for their wounds who are at high risk. In addition, the use of interventions and case studies related to those interventions, sparked participation among presenters and

the audience. This was an exciting opportunity to tap into a group of colleagues that may have different interests and spread information related to the skill that physical therapists bring to those patients with wounds. We were also able to display our wonderful booth in the exhibit hall thanks to Karen Gibbs. For those of you that missed it, we hope there is more to come in the future!

- The Wound Management group continues to grow with new members. The education guidelines continue to be presented to spread the word. We are presently involved in a practice survey for a potential new CPT code related to multi-layer compression wraps. Stay Tune!!
- It's that time again, to start planning for your trip to San Diego in February 2010! CSM will meet there February 17-20. As usual, there will be excellent Integumentary programming to represent wound management education. In addition we will have our annual WMSIG meeting. So hope to see all of you there in sunny San Diego! Also, plan ahead for PT 2010 June 16-19 in Boston, MA.

Thank you for your continued support for the section and hope to see you at the upcoming APTA events!



**Basic Electroneuromyographic Training Program**  
March 27 – April 2, 2010 and August 15 – 21, 2010

Interested in getting into the ENMG field? Join us for two intensive weeks of study and hands-on experience in both upper and lower extremity!

**Intermediate Electroneuromyographic Training Program**  
November 12 – 14, 2009

Expand your skills in electrophysiologic testing and knowledge of neurophysiology, pathology, and pathophysiology.

**ECS Examination Preparatory Course**  
January 15 – 17, 2010

This course is designed to prepare physical therapists to successfully complete the ECS examination as offered by ABPTS.

**21st Annual Electroneuromyographic Symposium**  
March 19 – 20, 2010

Join us for this evidence-based information exchange and learn from nation-wide experts!

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