

JERSEY JARGON



DECEMBER 1993

NJAPTA NEW JERSEY CHAPTER
AMERICAN PHYSICAL
THERAPY ASSOCIATION

President's Corner



I enjoyed seeing many of you at November's Fall Chapter meeting in Cherry Hill. I was so pleased with the tremendous turnout of members for the continuing education programs as well as the business meeting. During the meeting, we tried to look into New Jersey's health care future by gazing into a "crystal ball" of health care reform measures

which are already being implemented in other states. These measures include:

- channeling all Workers' Compensation and/or Medicaid clients into state-regulated managed care systems
- taxing providers' and health care facilities' gross revenue
- regulating or limiting the types of health care insurance policies offered to business
- controlling practitioners' fees
- setting health care spending caps

Health care reform is occurring on a state level! We must continue to pro-actively monitor, and when necessary, seek to alter proposed New Jersey legislation and regulations. Our Chapter's new Legislative Committee will help "red flag" bills

affecting physical therapy and will recommend legislative strategies. Make sure that your practice setting/specialty area is represented on this Committee.

So many members have called to inquire about the American Physical Therapy Association position on the Clinton Administration's Health Care Reform Proposal. We thought it would be a good idea to print it for you in the *Jargon*. I encourage your comments as well.

Physical therapist assistants are allowed to practice in New Jersey only under the "direct supervision" of a physical therapist. (See PTA notice on page 2.) The State Board of Physical Therapy currently interprets "direct supervision" to mean on-site supervision. At its Fall Chapter meeting, NJAPTA's membership charged the Chapter's Board of Directors to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of PTAs being able to practice with off-site/telephone-contact supervision and other quality assurance mechanisms. Are we appropriately utilizing the skills of PTAs in this state? What do you think?

As we look to 1994, NJAPTA has many issues to deal with and many goals to work towards. I hope that 1994 brings you many opportunities for your professional and personal enrichment.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday!

- Cindy Gore, PT

Health Care Reform

THE APTA on NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

The APTA has followed the development of President Clinton's health care reform plan with great interest. We have provided input to the policymakers at every point possible and have been supportive of the effort to make health services more accessible, less costly and more effective for all Americans. We will continue to be supportive of needed health care reform that emphasizes creating security for the American public, controlling costs, enhancing quality, expanding access to care, reducing administrative costs, providing choice in selection of provider, and emphasizing personal responsibility for one's own health care.

As the national association representing health care deliverers in a profession whose focus is wellness, rehabilitation and maximizing function, we are encouraged by the numerous steps being proposed to ensure that adequate coverage is available to all. In that vein, we have identified the following concerns.

Guaranteed National Benefits Package - The plan identifies a broad package of basic guaranteed benefits; however, there are several areas which must be refined. For example, the area of care for chronic or congenital conditions does not appear to be adequately addressed. While coverage is stressed for conditions arising out of illness or injury, there are life-

Continued on page 3