



### New Legislation Introduced to Add Athletic Trainers as Medicare Providers

Sen. Craig Thomas, R-Wyoming, has proposed federal legislation to add athletic trainers as covered providers of Medicare services. The bill, S. 3963, was introduced in the U.S. Senate September 28, 2006. Called "Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act of 2006," the bill aims to make health care services more easily available to Medicare patients.

"This bill is important because it gives Medicare beneficiaries an opportunity to have access to the unique skills of certified athletic trainers," said NATA President Chuck Kimmel, ATC. "I think this will provide a level of care for a population that desperately needs it and hasn't been able to access it."

The bill does two things: 1) Essentially overturns the challenged CMS incident-to rule and is consistent with existing law; and 2) Makes athletic trainers and lymphedema therapists covered providers under Medicare.

Of the group of practitioners who were blocked by the CMS incident-to rule, athletic trainers and lymphedema therapists can save the Medicare program money via their services. In the case of lymphedema therapists, there is an urgent need for professionals who can perform these services.

"The success of this legislation is critical to the future success of athletic training," Kimmel said, because private insurers tend to mimic Medicare policies. "Any opportunity for reimbursement begins with Medicare," he said. "If Medicare doesn't pay for athletic training services, which are part of the physical medicine and rehabilitation codes, then [some private insurers] won't, either. As we've already seen with the incident-to ruling, athletic trainers lose their jobs as a result."

NATA Secretary/Treasurer Marjorie Albohm, MS, ATC, urges all members to get involved. "Every member must assume personal responsibility for contacting all people who could be influential in understanding and supporting our position," she said. "The more people that we can educate about the importance of this, the more influence we'll have on Capitol Hill."

NATA lobbyist Bill Finerfrock said he will focus on recruiting co-sponsors after members of Congress return from their October recess. However, NATA members should take advantage of educating legislators on the bill while the lawmakers are in their districts campaigning. "While we don't expect Congress to act on this bill in the few remaining months of the session, we can use this time to build support for the bill in the next Congress," Finerfrock said. "Its success is heavily dependent on a strong, immediate grassroots response."

#### What You Need to Do:

- **Write letters to your lawmakers, asking them to support the Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act of 2006, S. 3963.**
  - Don't know how to reach your U.S. Senators and Representatives? Go to [www.firstgov.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml](http://www.firstgov.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml) to get the names and contact information.
- **Ask physicians, employers, administrators and other professional colleagues to write letters supporting the Act.**
  - Examples of letters will be included in the November *NATA News*.
- **Ask your patients, athletes and parents to contact their legislators in support of the Act.**
  - Tips on how to ask for support will be included in the November *NATA News*.
- **Join us for Capitol Hill Day 2007!**
  - The NATA will visit Capitol Hill on Monday, February 26, 2007. Athletic trainers from all 50 states are needed! Sign up now at [www.nata.org/capitolhillday/07reg.htm](http://www.nata.org/capitolhillday/07reg.htm)
- **Find Out More**
  - The November *NATA News* will detail the proposed legislation and offer examples of what to say to lawmakers, professional colleagues and patients to get them involved.
  - **Also:** Visit NATA's Legislative Alert Center by going to [www.nata.org](http://www.nata.org), logging in to the Members Section and selecting "Legislative Alert Center" from the Quick Links box.

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From NATA: NATA Takes "Incident-to" Issue to Supreme Court

The NATA will file a petition for writ of certiorari from the U.S. Supreme Court, seeking to overturn lower court rulings that dismissed NATA's lawsuit (on jurisdictional grounds only) challenging the "incident-to" decision by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. If granted, the Supreme Court will hear NATA's case.

NATA President Chuck Kimmel, ATC, said the Board of Directors voted this week to pursue the matter in the country's highest court. "We believe so strongly in the right of athletic trainers to be an option for incident-to therapy that we will pursue all available avenues to overturn CMS' unlawful rule," Kimmel said. "We promised we would do everything possible to try to overturn the CMS decision, and this qualifies under the category of 'everything.'

"The message is that NATA believes strongly enough in its position that we're willing to do whatever it takes, within the rules and ethically, to provide opportunities for patients who need our services to have access to them."

NATA legal counsel Paul Genender of Hughes & Luce, LLP, is leading NATA's legal team in preparing the petition, which must be filed within the next two months. The Court responds to petitions within 30 days.

Legislative efforts continue!

The legal action parallels NATA's legislative efforts.

Members: get involved now! Last week we told you about the Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act, S. 3963, a new bill that would make athletic trainers covered providers of Medicare services. Opposition has been swift and decisive. Legislators are already being contacted by people who claim athletic trainers are not qualified practitioners. SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT! We need ALL athletic trainers to contact their Senators and Congressmen in support of the bill, and ask professional colleagues and patients to do the same.

"We're letting our legal team fight the Supreme Court battle, but it's going to take every member of the athletic training team to fight the legislative battle," Kimmel said.

Click here [http://www.nata.org/members/documents/alert\\_center.cfm](http://www.nata.org/members/documents/alert_center.cfm) to access the Legislative Alert Center and get started now! Supporting this campaign is easy and convenient.

ELECTION NEWS

NDATA Special Election Secretary-Treasurer

Just a reminder that ballots for the Secretary-Treasurer position have been mailed and are to be returned to Jeff Bjerke by October 15th.

Jeff Bjerke
1905 22nd Avenue South
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Executive Committee Election

This fall, the vice-president position for the NDATA will be up for election. Anyone interested in running for vice-president please contact Jeff Bjerke via e-mail or phone.

Jeff Bjerke - Nominating Committee Chair
W 701-780-6778
F 701-780-6088
H 701-780-9125

jsbworm@gra.midco.net

Notes From The President

I hope your professional and personal lives are moving along well. We will be conducting our NDATA state meeting and symposium in Grand Forks this spring, 2007. We do not yet have a firm date; however, it will likely be shortly after the District 5 meeting, which is in Topeka, KS, March 15-18, 2007. This fall the Vice-President position for our state association will be up for election. Please consider running for this position. Thanks for your continued service to your profession and athletes.

Mark Romanick
President NDATA



ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

2007 NATA DATES AND LOCATIONS

It's not too early to start your plans for the 2007 NATA Annual Meeting. It's slated for June 26 - 30 in Anaheim, Orange County, California. For up-to-date information, visit http://www.nata.org/annualmeeting/

NATA FUTURE SITES AND DATES

2008	June 17-21	St. Louis, MO
2009	June 17-21	San Antonio, TX
2010	June 22-26	Philadelphia, PA

MAATA DATES AND LOCATIONS

2007	March 16-17	Topeka, KS
2008	April 18-19	Sioux Falls, SD
2009	TBA	Omaha, NE
2010	TBA	Topeka, KS

NDATA State Meeting

If you were unable to attend the 2006 NDATA State Meeting in April, the meeting minutes have been posted on the NDATA website. www.ndata.org

Special thanks to Robyn Gust and her staff for organizing the 2006 meeting. Next State Meeting: Spring 2007 in Grand Forks, ND

Sports for Special People

The North Dakota Athletic Trainer's Association (NDATA) presented \$1,170.00 to the North Dakota Special Olympics (NDSO) in June. For the past 6 years, the NDATA has raised funds for the NDSO during Athletic Training month by selling gold medals for \$1 each. This has resulted in over \$5,000.00 being donated to the NDSO. The money is presented annually at the NDSO's summer games in Fargo, North Dakota. Additionally, the NDATA donated athletic training supplies for the Special Olympic Athletes participating in the National Games held in Iowa.

"Special Thanks" to the following schools and organizations who graciously help the NDATA support the North Dakota Special Olympics.

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| American Gold Gymnastics               | Grand Forks Central High School   |
| Fargo North High School                | Grand Forks Red River High School |
| Fargo South High School                | Devils Lake High School           |
| West Fargo High School                 | Fargo Shanley High School         |
| Discovery Middle School                | Wahpeton High School              |
| North Dakota State University          | Minot High School                 |
| University of North Dakota             | University of Mary                |
| Minnesota State University of Moorhead |                                   |

NDATA Hall of Fame News

The North Dakota Athletic Trainers' Association has been granted permission to include NDATA Hall of Fame recipients in the North Dakota Athletic Hall of Fame in Jamestown. The NDATA Executive Board is currently in the process of designing plaques to be displayed at the Jamestown Civic Center in the Hall of Fame.

NDATA Hall of Fame Members

Tom Peterson	1997 Inductee
Dr. Denis "Izzy" Isrow	1997 Inductee
Leo Dougherty	2000 Inductee
Joe Kroeber	2002 Inductee

Click here (http://www.ndata.org/hall\_of\_fame.htm) for NDATA Hall of Fame Bios



## NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION

### Important! November 2006 Exam Registration Deadline

The Board of Certification (BOC) would like to take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date with recent announcements on the transition to Computer Based Exam delivery and our plans for registration for the Sunday, November 19, 2006 exam and beyond.

The BOC presented on Friday, June 16, 2006 at the NATA National Meeting. The title of the presentation was "Computer Based Examination BOC Update". The presentation was recorded and has been posted on the BOC website at this link: [www.bocate.org/boconline/EXAMREDESIGN/](http://www.bocate.org/boconline/EXAMREDESIGN/). We encourage you to view this presentation at your earliest convenience.

\*\*\***IMPORTANT**\*\*\* - Wednesday, July 5, 2006 at 4:30 PM CT, the BOC suspended exam registration for the November 19, 2006 exam and beyond. This is necessary to allow everyone involved in the transition adequate time to modify and test our registration system. Our plan is to open registration no later than Monday, September 18, 2006 at 9 am CT. Candidates who have already registered for the exam will keep their confirmed seat(s). There will be an internet based presentation in September 2006, which will explain and demonstrate in greater detail: the registration process, testing windows and administration for the Computer Based Exam. Beginning with the November 19, 2006 exam, candidates taking the Written and Written Simulation section(s) of the exam will do so during the two week window of November 6-17th at ACT Centers across the country. ACT has over 200 Centers across the US and Canada. Candidates needing to take the Practical exam will do so on Sunday, November 19, 2006 at BOC exam sites.

Some of the important points that are included in the online presentation are as follows:

1. Candidates taking the Written or Written Simulation sections of the examination will go to ACT Centers starting with the November administration. The Practical will be administered at BOC exam sites.
2. These candidates will take the Written and Written Simulation exams during the two weeks prior to the November 19 administration of the practical exam.
3. January 2007 exam - Written and Written Simulation exams will be administered via computer at ACT testing centers. The Practical will be administered at BOC exam sites.
4. The last time the BOC exam will be administered in "sections" will be **Sunday, April 22, 2007**. Written, Written Simulation and Hybrid exams will be administered via computer at ACT testing centers. The Practical will be administered at BOC exam sites. Exam sites are being determined at this time, and the BOC is making every attempt to seat as many practical candidates as possible.
5. June 2007 will be the first completely computerized exam. The exam will be administered at ACT testing centers during two week testing windows.
6. Any candidates who need to retake ANY section of the BOC exam after the April 2007 exam date will retake a SINGLE exam via computer based delivery at an ACT testing center. They will take the "integrated" four hour exam. The exam will no longer be administered in "sections".
7. Candidates will be able to take the exam once during each two week testing window.

Again, there will be an internet based presentation in September 2006, which will explain and demonstrate in greater detail: the registration process, testing windows and administration for the Computer Based Exam. The BOC will notify all candidates via email and postings on our web site no less than 72 hours before the registration re-opens.





Thank you for your patience and understanding during the transition. You are encouraged to visit the BOC website for more information on the exam transition. Click here (<http://www.bocate.org/boconline/EXAMREDESIGN/>) for the most current BOC exam redesign information.

Please contact the BOC office with any questions you have regarding this process at [regx@bocate.org](mailto:regx@bocate.org) or 877-262-3926.

## MAATA Fall Newsletter

The MAATA fall newsletter is now posted on the MAATA website. [www.maata.net](http://www.maata.net)

## NDATA Executive Board Members

<b>Executive Director:</b>		<p><b>Jon Darling (JD), ATC</b>                  Fargo North High School                  801 17th Avenue North                  Fargo, ND 58102</p> <p>701.446.2447                  Fax: 701.446.2799                  Email: <a href="mailto:jon.darling@us.army.mil">jon.darling@us.army.mil</a></p>
<b>President:</b>		<p><b>Mark Romanick, ATC, PT</b>                  Dept. of Physical Therapy                  PO Box 9037                  Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037</p> <p>701.777.3668                  Fax: 701.777.4199                  Email: <a href="mailto:mromanic@medicine.nodak.edu">mromanic@medicine.nodak.edu</a></p>
<b>Vice President:</b>		<p><b>Blaine Steiner, ATC</b>                  University of Mary                  7500 University Drive                  Bismarck, ND 58504</p> <p>701.355.8188                  Fax: 701.255.7687                  Email: <a href="mailto:bsteiner@umary.edu">bsteiner@umary.edu</a></p>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>		<p><b>Nikki German, ATC</b>                  North Dakota State University                  PO Box 5600                  Fargo, ND 58105</p> <p>701.231.5835                  Fax: 701.231.5189                  Email: <a href="mailto:nicole.german@ndsu.edu">nicole.german@ndsu.edu</a></p>

## Committee Chairs

<p><b>Clinical/Industrial</b></p> <p><b>College &amp; University</b></p> <p><b>College &amp; University SATs</b></p> <p><b>Educational Multimedia</b></p> <p><b>Governmental Affairs</b></p> <p><b>Historian</b></p> <p><b>Honor &amp; Awards/Scholarship</b></p> <p><b>Nominating Chair</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Brad Reed  <a href="mailto:bradleyreed@meritcare.com">bradleyreed@meritcare.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Scott Woken  <a href="mailto:scott.woken@ndsu.edu">scott.woken@ndsu.edu</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pam Hansen  <a href="mailto:pamela.j.hansen@ndsu.edu">pamela.j.hansen@ndsu.edu</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tim O'Brien  <a href="mailto:obrien@mayvillestate.edu">obrien@mayvillestate.edu</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Don Bruenjes  <a href="mailto:donbruenjes@msn.com">donbruenjes@msn.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jenny Swenson  <a href="mailto:jennifer.swenson@ndsu.edu">jennifer.swenson@ndsu.edu</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Teresa Seefeld  <a href="mailto:tseefeld@umary.edu">tseefeld@umary.edu</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jeff Bjerke  <a href="mailto:jsbworm@gra.midco.net">jsbworm@gra.midco.net</a></p>	<p><b>Placement</b></p> <p><b>Public Relations</b></p> <p><b>Committee on Revenue</b></p> <p><b>Research/Education</b></p> <p><b>Secondary School Athletic Trainers</b></p> <p><b>Web Master</b></p> <p><b>Women in Athletic Training</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jay Albrecht  <a href="mailto:jay.albrecht@ndsu.edu">jay.albrecht@ndsu.edu</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Blaine Steiner  <a href="mailto:bsteiner@umary.edu">bsteiner@umary.edu</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Robyn Gust  <a href="mailto:robvn.gust@trinityhealth.org">robvn.gust@trinityhealth.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">George Judd  <a href="mailto:george.judd@vcu.edu">george.judd@vcu.edu</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Scott Witte  <a href="mailto:srwitte@msn.com">srwitte@msn.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jon Stock  <a href="mailto:jstock@cableone.net">jstock@cableone.net</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rhonda Olson  <a href="mailto:rolson@umary.edu">rolson@umary.edu</a></p>
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## NDATA News

If anyone has any news or ideas for future issues of the NDATA News, please contact Blaine Steiner, Public Relations Chair.