Talking Points for Personal Use with the formal Fact Sheets – these should not be left behind

We urge Congress to break the cycle of temporary patches and complete its work on comprehensive Medicare payment reform that includes full repeal of the outpatient therapy cap.

Show your support for a permanent repeal of the therapy cap by cosponsoring the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act of 2013 (S 367/HR713).

- If allowed to take effect, the hard cap on Medicare outpatient OT, PT, and Speech services would deny Medicare beneficiaries much needed services.

- The cap is the only place where beneficiaries can simply be denied coverage, regardless of medical necessity. *(Many people are concerned about the growing cost of Medicare and increased cost of therapy services. But hard caps on therapy services are not good policy. Make it as real as possible by using examples of people who are likely to hit the cap – people who have two major episodes in one year, people whose rehab is set back by medical conditions, etc. Use your experience if possible).*

- Luckily Congress has not allowed the cap to take effect in many years; instead there has been an exceptions process. However, the yearly threat of the cap taking effect creates uncertainty for providers and patients.

- Congress made significant progress, this year, on legislation to reform Medicare’s provider payment system, known as SGR reform. **AOTA advocated, strongly, for the inclusion of full therapy cap repeal in the legislation and was successful in incorporating it into the Senate version.**

- Both SGR and the therapy caps were enacted together in 1997. Congress has recognized them as troubling policies from the outset and has almost always taken action to avoid their impact by passing fixes or exceptions process extensions. The two fixes have always moved together. **We urge Congress to continue its efforts to pass comprehensive SGR reform that includes a full and permanent repeal of the cap.**

- **Congress must support a pathway to care for beneficiaries that is determined by need, not an arbitrary dollar amount. Now is the time to fix the therapy cap and Medicare’s payment system permanently.**

- **Call on your Members of Congress to support full repeal of the therapy cap in comprehensive SGR legislation. Urge them to weigh in with party leadership about their support for a long term solution. Now is the time.**