

**NARA SPRING CONFERENCE 2018**  
**The New Health Care Environment**  
**Crossing the Health Care Road with NARA**

**Wednesday, May 2, 2018**

- 8:00 –8:30 a.m.**      **Light Breakfast and Conference Sign-in** (*New Hampshire III*)
- 8:30—9:45 a.m.**      **President’s Welcome and NARA’s Vision for the Future of Rehab**
- Stephen Hunter, PT, DPT, OCS  
NARA President

**9:45—10:00 a.m.**      **Break**

**10:00—11:00a.m.**      **“If you don’t know where you’re going, you might end up somewhere else” Yogi Berra**

The tax reform legislation and new budget agreements have added trillions of dollars to the national debt creating enormous pressure for entitlement reform (e.g. spending cuts) including Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. The Trump Administration is actively pursuing an aggressive deregulation agenda to reduce the burden of federal regulation on American businesses including those in the health care sector. It is also revamping or dismantling numerous health care initiatives undertaken by President Obama including bundled payment demonstrations, value-based payment systems, and of course, the Affordable Care Act. Congressional Republicans and the President are seeking to shift more responsibility for health care to state governments through legislation and the granting of waivers to states—waivers which many states are actively requesting in order to rein in their health care costs. Meanwhile, the private sector is witnessing all manner of unprecedented consolidations, creating large service providers, purchasers, and payors with new and unprecedented market power. Meanwhile, the numerous legislative and regulatory changes in the Affordable Care Act, raise serious questions about the continued availability of health care coverage through the exchanges. This session will examine these and other developments and lay the foundation for further discussions at the conference.

- George G. Olsen, Esq.  
President, Williams & Jensen, PLLC

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#### **Wednesday, May 2, 2018 Continued**

**11:00—11:30 a.m.    The 2018 Mid-Term Elections—Same-old, Same-old or Sea Change?**

The upcoming mid-term Congressional elections will be hotly contested, highly acrimonious, and perhaps historic in nature. The results will undoubtedly impact health care legislation, regulation, and policy. If Republicans are able to maintain control of the House and Senate, the current course will continue and the prospects for substantial entitlement reform increased. If Democrats flip one or both of the bodies, the game will change and it will be more difficult for Republicans and the President will be able to advance their agendas. It would also likely mean a barrage of Congressional investigations of the Trump Administration. So, which way are the political winds blowing? This portion of the agenda will attempt to answer that question.

- Matthew Hoekstra  
Principal, Williams & Jensen, PLLC

**11:30—1:00 p.m.    Lunch on Your Own**

**1:00—2:15 p.m.    Beyond the Therapy Caps**

After 20 years of relentless battling, the outpatient therapy caps have been permanently repealed and a new claims review schemata has been put in its place. This session will feature Congressional staff members who were instrumental in securing the repeal—providing NARA members with the opportunity to thank them in person. The staff will also discuss the legislative intent behind the repeal and the new review process.

- Invited Congressional Staff

**2:15—2:30 p.m.    Break**

**2:30—3:45 p.m.    Claims Review After the Caps Repeal**

The legislation which repealed the therapy caps modified the way outpatient therapy claims are reviewed. This session will discuss this new process, identify open questions about its implementation, provide some insight about CMS' thinking about the procedures, and examine how rehabilitation businesses should comply with the modified procedure.

- Invited representative from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- NARA representative who can speak to best practices for compliance

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**Wednesday, May 2, 2018 Continued**

**3:45—4:00 p.m.      Break**

**4:00—4:30 p.m.      TRICARE and Therapy Assistants**

Congress has directed the Department of Defense to change its rules to permit coverage of physical therapy and occupational therapy assistants. This session will discuss the Congressional action as well as the steps which DOD intends to take to implement the change in law. It will also lay out the steps the rehabilitation associations are taking to inform the rulemaking process.

- George G. Olsen, Esq.
- Representative from APTA and/or AOTA

**4:30-5:00 p.m.      Preparation for Hill Visits—Time to Say “Thank You”**

This session will prepare NARA members for their visits to Capitol Hill. It will remind members to say “Thank you” for repealing the caps and directing DOD to provide TRICARE coverage for services rendered by assistants. Other issues which should be raised with Congress will also be discussed as well as the elements of effective meetings with Members of Congress and their staffs. Information packets for the Hill visits will also be distributed.

- Mark Anderson, PT  
President, Mountain Land Rehabilitation, Inc.
- George G. Olsen, Esq.

**5:00—6:30 p.m.      Welcome Reception and Solution Partner Fest**

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**Thursday, May 3, 2018**

- 8:00—12:30 p.m. Conference Attendees Visit Capitol Hill**
- 12:30—1:30 p.m. Hill Visit Summaries/Feedback and Presentation on NARA-PAC**
- 1:30—1:45 p.m. Break**
- 1:45—3:45 p.m. Report on Priorities of the HHS Office of Inspector General**
- A representative from the Office of the Inspector General will be joining us for a 2 hour session/panel to discuss some of their office initiatives and discuss topics Rehab Providers are concerned about.
- 3:45—4:00 p.m. Break**
- 4:00—5:00 p.m. NARA Membership Annual Business Meeting**
- This session is for current NARA members. Those who are attending conference but interested in becoming a NARA member may attend.
- 5:00—5:30 p.m. NARA Board of Directors/Newly Elected Officers Meeting**

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**Friday, May 4, 2018**

**7:00—8:15 a.m.      Bantering over Bagels with George** *(additional registration and fee)*

Start your day with George Olsen for an in-depth discussion of politics, policy, health care, and the latest Washington inside baseball. It is intended as a free-wheeling session triggered off of questions posed by attendees. No speech! No lecture!

**8:15—8:30 a.m.      Session sign-In, Breakfast and Membership Networking** *(Ballroom)*

**8:30—9:15 a.m.      Implementation of the Resident Classification System Version 1 (RCS-1)**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is considering a payment system for skilled nursing facilities which to replace the Resource Utilization Group Version IV (RUGS IV) with a “Resident Classification System Version 1 (RCS-1). There is talk that the new system could be put in place in 2020 although there is no proposed CMS policy at this time. This session is intended as a detailed discussion about RCS-1, its implementation and timeline, as well as its potential impact on SNFs and rehabilitation providers.

- Representative of the American Health Care Association
- Invited representative of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Mark McDavid, NARA Board Member

**9:15—10:00 a.m.      Amazon, Google, Walmart et al. in the Health Care Business—What Does It All Mean?**

Widely diverse companies are jumping into the health care marketplace with a view toward making fundamental changes in the way it operates and/or finding ways to restrain burgeoning health care costs. For example, earlier this year, Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway, and JPMorgan announced that they were teaming up to “disrupt” health care in this country. Google is bringing its enormous resources to bear on the sector as are other major players such as Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens. What does this all mean? Where are these efforts headed? This session will explore these intriguing developments.

- Invited speaker from Wall Street/institutional investor

**10:00—10:30 a.m.      Break**

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**Friday, May 4, 2018 Continued**

**10:30—12:30 p.m. A Little Help from Our Friends**

This now-traditional session affords the organizations with which works closely to share issues, ideas, and proposals important to them directly with NARA's members.

- American Physical Therapy Association
- American Occupational Therapy Association
- American Speech-Language Hearing Association
- American Health Care Association
- National Association for the Support of Long-Term Care
- American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

**12:30 p.m. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**