

## Eli's Rehab Report

### Industry News: MPPR Makes Final MPFS Cut

#### Payment cut not as drastic as proposed.

The 2011 PPS final rule offered good news in the form of relaxed therapy reassessment requirements, but therapy will be taking a hit from another direction.

The 2011 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule will slash payments across therapy disciplines by 25 percent under the multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR) provision.

Originally proposed as a 50 percent reduction, therapy advocates succeeded in reducing the impact on therapy payments from \$500 million to \$250 million. Private and other public payers will likely follow in Medicare's footsteps and implement the 25-percent reduction in payments despite the distinct differences in benefits, payment, and medical necessity standards, notes the **American Occupational Therapy Association** in a statement on its website.

Fallout: The MPPR provision will "put unreasonable constraints on access to occupational therapy services for Medicare beneficiaries," as well as conflate the contributions and challenges of each discipline, stated AOTA president **Florence Clark, OTR/L, FAOTA**.

"The failure to differentiate the three much-needed types of therapy creates a commodity-type reimbursement structure which, without sound justification, devalues the three professions," Clark explained. You can expect AOTA and other associations to continue fighting the provision.