

NJ/EPA TRA- September 2009 - Email Blast

NJ/EPA TRA Update:

President's Message:

Dear NJ/EPA TRA members,

Summer is over...which means it is time to get ready for upcoming fall conferences. The annual ATRA conference will be held October 3-6th in Minneapolis, MN. You can find prices, program, and registration details at <http://www.atra-online.com/>. Also, the new ATRA website was unveiled in mid-August. The latest features of the website include a different layout and information about ATRA's strategic plan goal: to provide premier membership services through education, leadership development, public policy, quality initiatives and technology.

Don't forget about our **NJ/EPA TRA annual conference!** This year's conference will be held on **November 9th and 10th, 2009** at the NJ Hospital Association in Princeton, NJ. The theme is "RECOgnize each other". Please check our website and your e-mail at the beginning of next month for program information. If you have any questions please e-mail Erin at moore.erin.k@gmail.com. The discounted membership prices for the conference are listed below.

Member prices:

Early Bird by 10/21/09: Full Conf \$130/ Daily \$85
Regular by 10/28/09: Full Conf \$150/ Daily \$95
On site (after 10/29/09): Full Conf \$195/ Daily \$105

Non-Member Prices:

Early Bird by 10/21/09: Full Conf \$150/ Daily \$95
Regular by 10/28/09: Full Conf \$170/ Daily \$105
Onsite (after 10/29/09): Full Conf \$215/ Daily \$115

Student Member prices:

Early Bird by 10/21/09: Full Conf \$60/ Daily \$40
Regular by 10/28/09: Full Conf \$65/ Daily \$45
On site (after 10/29/09): Full Conf \$70/ Daily \$50

CEUs: \$10

Are you looking to get more involved with NJ/EPA TRA? We are now accepting nominations for the 2010 Board of Directors. Open positions include: Secretary (2 year term), PA Member at Large (2 year term), and President Elect (3 year term). For more information please see the descriptions below or contact Amy Long at amy_long17@hotmail.com.

A few quick "thank you's": Thank you to everyone who wrote letters to CMS regarding coverage of RT services at inpatient rehabilitation facilities. Also, thank you to all who took the time to fill out our NJ/EPA Spring workshop follow up survey. Finally, thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help make our fall conference possible. I can't wait to see you there!

Erin Moore, CTRS
NJ/EPA TRA President

Fall Conference Call for Papers

NJ/EPA TRA Fall Conference

“RECOgnize Each Other”



at NJ Hospital Association Conference Center

November 9, 2009 and November 10, 2009

PROPOSAL MUST INCLUDE:

1. Title of session (please limit to 10 words)
2. Speaker's name, address, daytime telephone number, fax and email
3. Brief description of the program (limited to 30 words)
4. Learning outcomes: outcomes must be measurable and indicate what the audience will learn by participating in the session (limit 3)
5. Outline of session
6. Mode of presentation: Lecture, discussion, panel, interactive activities
7. Resource list: books, articles, web sites
8. NCTRC Job Analysis code
 - a. Background information
 - b. Diagnostic information
 - c. Assessment
 - d. Planning the program
 - e. Implementing the program/treatment
 - f. Documentation/evaluation
 - g. Organizing and managing services
 - h. Advancement of the profession
9. Relevant audience (please be specific): entry level therapist, advanced therapist, student, educator, entry level supervisor, advanced supervisor, etc.
10. Identify AV equipment needed. We can provide: slide projector, TV/VCR, overhead projector, power point projection (speaker must provide own computer), and white dry mark board or flipchart.

IN ADDITION: Please include: ☼ Professional resume/vitae ☼ 100 word introductory bio

SEND PROPOSALS (Microsoft Word format appreciated) **by Monday September 16, 2009 – Extended Deadline**

TO: Dr. Susanne Lesnik-Emas, CTRS at slesnik@temple.edu

NJ/EPA TRA 2009 Elections for Board of Directors

NJ/EPA TRA is currently accepting nominations for three positions on the board of directors: President-Elect, Secretary and Pennsylvania Member at Large. The Secretary and Pennsylvania Member at Large serve two-year terms. The President Elect commits to a three-year term, serving one year each as President Elect, President and Past President. All nominations and questions should be directed to Amy Long at amy_long17@hotmail.com

President-Elect	Secretary	PA Member at Large
Term: 3 years President-Elect: 11/09-11/10 President: 11/10-11/11 Past President: 11/11-11/12	Term: 2 years 11/09-11/11	Term: 2 years 11/09-11/11 *Individual must reside in PA.
Duties/Responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists the President and provides leadership in his/her absence. • Serves as liaison to committee chairs of the affiliate. • Represents chapter at ATRA conferences and through involvement in Chapter Affiliate Council calls and meetings (during presidency). • Attends all scheduled board meetings and membership meetings. • Contributes to discussions and deliberations on all affiliate business issues. • Coordinates e-mail blasts. • Assumes the role of President in 11/10. 	Duties/Responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains all official records of the affiliate. • Records minutes for Board meetings and membership meetings and distributes to the board. • Does general correspondence for the affiliate as needed. • Attends all scheduled board meetings and membership meetings. • Contributes to discussions and deliberations on all affiliate business issues. • Submits articles/information to the e-mail blasts as assigned. 	Duties/Responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves as liaison for members who live in PA. • Monitors relevant legislative issues and participates in State Public Policy initiatives. • Attends all scheduled board meetings and membership meetings. • Contributes to discussions and deliberations on all affiliate business issues. • Submits articles/information to the e-mail blasts as assigned.

Send in your additions/suggestions

If you have any questions, suggestions, articles or information for future Email Blasts please contact Lucy Orr Tomczynski at lucyctrs@msn.com.

Post with NJ/EPA TRA

Job postings and educational opportunities can be sent to Lucy Orr Tomczynski at lucyctrs@msn.com. These postings are sent out via email to all members of NJ/EPA TRA with in a few days of being received. This is a free service we offer to our members.

ATRA UPDATE:

Medicare project update from ATRA:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Issue Final Rules:

Outcome for RT Services

Thomas Skalko, Diane Skalko, Lisa Morgan

On behalf of the ATRA Federal Public Policy Team (FPP) and the ATRA Board of Director's, we sincerely thank every professional who engaged to take action by sending letters to CMS through the regulations website and through the Medicare benefits email address provided. Many CTRS' also engaged other allied health professionals, coworkers, and consumers to submit comment on behalf of the Recreational Therapy profession. Please extend our sincere thanks to these individuals as well.

Our team does recognize that CMS received a sizeable number of comments from our profession based on information shared with the ATRA office. This is a great example of how each person can take 10 minutes to help make a difference for our profession and for the consumers who benefit from our services.

Recap of the ATRA RT Medicare Project

Over the past several years, the American Therapeutic Recreation Association has been engaged in an initiative to have the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) acknowledge that recreational therapy services, when prescribed by a physician, is a covered service in Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs), Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities (IPFs) and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs). On July 31, 2009, CMS issued final rules covering the Medicare Program: Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2010.

Outcome for RT Services

Following an extensive campaign to seek written clarification that recreational therapy (RT) is a covered service and to seek the inclusion of RT services as an option under the 3-hour guideline for IRFs, CMS issued final rules. In summary, *CMS did identify RT as a covered service*, when ordered by a physician as part of the overall rehabilitation plan. This is the first time they have acknowledged this in writing, thus, meaning we met our first goal of the RT Medicare Project. This is one hurdle that we can all be excited about for the profession. *CMS did not, however, include RT as a service under the 3-hour guideline* as a service that could be used in place of the required physical therapy and occupational therapy, or speech-language pathology/prosthetics/orthotics therapy.

While the initiative to seek inclusion of RT in the 3-hour guideline was not successful, the written acknowledgement that RT is a covered service under Medicare for IRFs was accomplished. ATRA, however, will be exploring the interpretations by CMS and seeking clarification of feedback provided in the final rule. The final rule goes into effect for Federal Fiscal Year 2010 (October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010). ATRA's Federal Public Policy Team will keep you informed as actions progress.

For questions or comments, please contact Lisa Morgan at lmorgan@siskinrehab.org, Dr. Thomas Skalko at skalkot@ecu.edu, or Diane Skalko at dianeskalko@gmail.com

Save the Dates/Upcoming Event:

The ATRA Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, MN on October 3-6, 2009. Visit www.atra-online.com for more information.

The NJ/EPA TRA Annual Conference will be held at the NJ Hospital Association in Princeton, NJ on November 9-10, 2009. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE. This is later than it was held in past years.

Upcoming Event:

Advance Newsmagazines is holding a Healthcare Job Fair & Career Event at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ on October 2, 2009. For more information visit the website at: www.advanceweb.com/jobfairs or e-mail jobfair@advanceweb.com.