2026 University of South Alabama
Department of Physical Therapy CEU Courses

- **Documentation & Payment Principles: 2026 Update**
  Price $60, Tuesday, August 25, 2026 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- **Neurologic Considerations for Acute Care**
  Price $60, Thursday, September 3, 2026 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- **Physical Therapy Clinical Considerations for Patients with Heart Failure**
  Price $60, Thursday, September 10, 2026 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- **Blood Flow Restriction Therapy: Evidence-Based Principles and Clinical Applications for Physical Therapists**
  Price $45, Tuesday, September 22, 2026 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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Click Here to Register

Course Title: Documentation & Payment Principles: 2026 Update

Number of CEUs: 0.3 CEUs

Price: $60

Course Instructor:

Ellen R. Strunk, PT, MS, GCS, ACEEAA, CHC, RAC-CT
Rehab Resources & Consulting, Inc.

For nearly two decades Ellen R. Strunk, PT, MS, GCS, FAPTA, ACEEAA, CHC, RAC-CT has worked at the intersection of clinical care, operations, and health policy. Her career spans roles as a clinician, manager/director, and policy specialist, giving her a rare ability to translate complex Medicare payment systems and outpatient therapy billing rules into practical, actionable guidance for providers. As founder and principal consultant of Rehab Resources and Consulting, Inc., she has supported dozens of organizations in strengthening their clinical performance, operational efficiency, and regulatory readiness. Her background across home-based, community, and post-acute settings allows her to approach challenges with a balanced, patient centered perspective. Her expertise also extends to policy development and education, where she contributes to quality measure design, provider training, and compliance initiatives. She is a published author, contributing the Health Policy for Physical Therapists and Older Adults chapter to the 4th edition of Guccione's Geriatric Physical Therapy.

Date & Time: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Course Delivery Method: In-Person

Location*:* University of South Alabama HAHN #1013 Nursing Auditorium

Course Description: As 2026 winds down and 2027 approaches, therapy professionals face another year of rapid change in Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial payer policy. Every new rule brings ripple effects for coding, payment, documentation, and the growing list of reasons claims are denied. With healthcare dollars stretched across all settings, therapy services must be more proactive—and more precise—than ever to secure payment. At the same time, CMS and private payers continue their steady march toward value-based care, expanding quality-linked reimbursement and tightening expectations for medical necessity, functional outcomes, and defensible documentation.

This course gives participants a clear, practical, and up-to-date understanding of the rules and regulations governing therapy documentation and coding. You'll learn how to apply the essential components of defensible documentation in everyday practice—and avoid the pitfalls that often prevail with the use of electronic record systems and the advent of artificial intelligence.

Participants will leave with a sharper understanding of how payment reform affects care delivery, how quality scores influence reimbursement, and how therapists can drive value in an environment where every metric matters, and how to minimize the risk of payment denials. Whether you're a clinician, educator, or leader, this course prepares you to thrive in a payment environment increasingly defined by accountability, clarity, and value.

- Analyze the expanded SNF Value-Based Purchasing program, including new measures and scoring changes that influence therapy practice.
- Evaluate Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility payment and QRP updates to determine how coverage-criteria refinements affect clinical decision-making.
- Apply Home Health payment and quality-reporting changes to documentation and care planning, with attention to functional and utilization-related metrics.
- Assess emerging commercial payer trends—such as prior-authorization tightening and documentation-based denials—to develop strategies that reduce denial risk.

Learner-based Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the critical nature of maintaining competence in skilled documentation requirements.
2. Effectively communicate the information needed in evaluations, treatment notes,
3. progress reports and discharge summaries.
4. Describe key Medicare Physician Fee Schedule updates and summarize their expected impact on therapy payment.
5. Differentiate new and revised CPT codes from existing codes and explain correct application for therapists and therapist assistants.
6. Assess emerging commercial payer trends—such as prior-authorization tightening and documentation-based denials—to develop strategies that reduce denial risk.

Intended Audience: PTs, PTAs, OTs, COTAs, SLPs, Office managers

Prerequisite Course: none

Special Attire: No special attire is required

Specified Equipment/Books: None

Course Title: Neurologic Considerations for Acute Care: Emphasis on New Acute Care Core Measures and Vestibular Assessment

Number of CEUs: 0.3 CEUs

Price: $60

Course Instructors: **Tara Andrews, PT, DPT, NCS and Tracey Coale, PT, DPT, GCS**

- Tara is an assistant professor in the DPT program at the University of South Alabama. Tara received her DPT degree from the University of South Alabama. She is an ABPTS certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist and has clinical experience in acute, inpatient rehab, and outpatient physical therapy. She currently teaches in the clinical skills, movement analysis, and neurology curriculum. She obtained certification through the APTA Vestibular Competency Course in 2024 and is currently enrolled in the Advanced Vestibular Physical Therapy Certification Program through the University of Pittsburg.
- Tracey is an assistant professor in the DPT program at the University of South Alabama. Tracey received her PT degree from University of South Alabama and DPT from Boston University. She is an ABPTS certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist and has clinical experience in acute, inpatient rehab, and home health care physical therapy.She currently teaches in clinical skills, professionalism, documentation, advanced PT skills, clinical case studies, clinical synthesis & pt management and the clinical education curriculum.

Date & Time: Thursday, September 3, 2026 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Course Delivery Method: In-person

Location*:* University of South Alabama Department of Physical Therapy. Room: HAHN 2048

Course Description: Recent literature for neurologic considerations in acute patient management has great implications for therapy delivery. This course is focused on the practical implication of these guidelines. Specific focus will be given to utilization of the core outcome measures CPG for acute care and performance of a basic vestibular assessment in acute care.

Learner-based Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Review core outcome measures CPG for acute care
2. Understand and perform basic vestibular assessment in acute care

Course Schedule:

5:45 p.m. - Opening remarks; Course objectives

6:00 p.m. - Review of the Core Outcome Measures CPG

7:00 p.m. - Discussion of Basic Vestibular Assessment in Acute Care.

7:30 p.m. - Lab portion performing core outcome measures for acute care PT and HINTS+ and STANDING for Vestibular Assessment.

8:45 p.m. - Closing remarks

Course Open to: PT, PTA, OT, OTA

Prerequisite Course: None

Special Attire: No special attire is required

Specified Equipment/Books: None

Maximum Registration: 30

Course Title: Physical Therapy Clinical Considerations for Patients with Heart Failure

Number of CEUs: 0.3 CEUs

Price: $60

Course Instructor: **Preston Warren, DPT, MD**

Preston is an assistant professor in the DPT program at the University of South Alabama. He earned his DPT from the University of South Alabama in 2010 and his MD from the University of South Alabama in 2016. He has clinical experience working in acute care, skilled nursing, and outpatient physical therapy.

Date & Time: Thursday, September 10, 2026 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Course Delivery Method: In-person

Location*:* University of South Alabama Department of Physical Therapy. Room: HAHN 2048

Course Description: Based on the APTA Clinical Practice Guideline, this clinical education course provides physical therapists and physical therapist assistants with a highly practical, evidence-based blueprint for managing patients with heart failure across the care continuum. Designed to bridge the gap between complex cardiovascular pathophysiology and daily clinical practice, you will master evidence-based clinical algorithms to confidently assess patient stability, screen for exertional intolerance, and recognize acute decompensation using the Red-Yellow-Green CHF framework.

Learner-based Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Apply the Red-Yellow-Green CHF framework to accurately assess patient stability, monitor for exertional intolerance, and recognize early signs of acute decompensation.
2. Determine prescriptive parameters for interventions including aerobic training, resistance exercise, high-intensity interval training, and inspiratory muscle training tailored to patients with heart failure.
3. Implement effective clinical strategies to facilitate essential patient self-management behaviors, such as daily weight tracking and medication reconciliation, to optimize functional independence and reduce the risk of hospital readmissions.

Course Schedule:

5:45 – 6:00 p.m. Welcome & Course Introduction

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Clinical Assessment & Red-Yellow-Green Risk Stratification

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Prescriptive Exercise Parameters for Heart Failure

8:00 – 8:45 p.m. Chronic Self-Management & Reducing Hospital Readmissions

8:45 – 9:00 p.m. Clinical Wrap-Up

Course Open to: PT, PTA

Prerequisite course: None

Special Attire: Casual attire

Specified Equipment/Books: None

Maximum Registration: 40

Course Title: Blood Flow Restriction Therapy: Evidence-Based Principles and Clinical Applications for Physical Therapists

Number of CEUs: 0.2 CEUs

Price: $45

Course Instructors: **Troy Burley PT, DPT, PhD, OCS, FAAOMPT and Kevin Strehler, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS**

Troy Burley is currently a faculty member of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of South Alabama. He has been a physical therapist for over twenty years. He earned his PhD in Orthopedic and Sports Science in 2018 from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. He is a board-certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties and a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists. Dr. Burley currently serves in the United States Army Reserve since 2014. He has integrated blood flow restriction therapy with tactical as well as professional athletes for successful outcomes.

Kevin is an assistant professor in the DPT program at the University of South Alabama. He earned his DPT from the University of Florida in 2016 and his PhD in Biomedical Sciences, with a concentration in Physiology and Pharmacology in 2013. He is a board-certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. He practiced in the outpatient orthopedic setting for 10 years in various states. He currently teaches in the clinical skills, research, and musculoskeletal curriculum.

Date & Time: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Course Delivery Method: In-person

Location*:* University of South Alabama Department of Physical Therapy. Room: HAHN 2048

Course Description: Blood Flow Restriction (BFR) therapy has emerged as an evidence-based intervention that allows patients to improve muscular strength and hypertrophy while exercising with low mechanical loads. This course provides practicing physical therapists with a comprehensive overview of the science, safety, and clinical application of BFR. Participants will review the physiological mechanisms underlying BFR, current evidence supporting its use, patient selection, contraindications, individualized limb occlusion pressure determination, and evidence-based exercise prescription for both strengthening and aerobic training.

The course emphasizes practical clinical decision-making and provides clinicians with the knowledge needed to safely incorporate BFR into orthopedic and sports rehabilitation practice.

Learner-based Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the historical development and evolution of Blood Flow Restriction Therapy.
2. Explain the physiological mechanisms responsible for strength and hypertrophy adaptations during BFR.
3. Identify appropriate patient indications, contraindications, and safety precautions.
4. Determine appropriate limb occlusion pressures based on current evidence.
5. Differentiate upper and lower extremity BFR training parameters.
6. Develop evidence-based strengthening and aerobic BFR exercise programs.
7. Apply current clinical guidelines to safely integrate BFR into rehabilitation practice.

Course Schedule:

6:00 – 6:10 p.m. Introduction, Course Objectives & History of BFR

6:10 – 6:35 p.m. Basic Principles and Physiological Mechanisms

6:35 – 7:00 p.m. Strength & Hypertrophy Adaptations

7:00 – 7:20 p.m. Clinical Application: Limb Occlusion Pressure, Cuff Selection & Safety

7:20 – 7:40 p.m. Evidence-Based Strengthening & Aerobic Training Protocols

7:40 – 8:00 p.m. Clinical Case Discussion, Questions & Course Wrap-Up

Course Open to: PT, PTA

Prerequisite Course: None

Special Attire: Casual attire

Specified Equipment/Books: None

Maximum Registration: 40

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All purchases are final regardless of course attendance.