February Bylaws Update

During the Fall 2014 elections, the Acute Care Section (ACS) membership adopted eight bylaw amendments that do the following:

1) Add a new position of “Section Delegate” to the ACS board of directors
   - This person will represent the section in APTA’s House of Delegates, thereby removing delegate responsibilities from the President, who already has many other duties and responsibilities in leading the section.
   - The length of term is three years, as with other Board positions.
   - The President will serve as the section’s Alternate Delegate to the House of Delegates.
   - If both the Section Delegate and President are unable to serve as delegate, then the Executive Committee will appoint a delegate.
   - The Section Delegate will be elected in the same cycle as the Secretary, Nominating Committee member, and Physical Therapist Assistant Member at Large; the first Section Delegate will be elected in the Fall 2015 elections.

2) Modify the voting process for elections and consideration of bylaw amendments, to provide more flexibility, within the confines of applicable law
   - Any vote of the members may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, be conducted by mail or in any other manner permitted by applicable law; this would allow some ballots to be emailed to members. According to state statute, however, actual votes would still need to be cast (sent back to the section office) via the U.S. Postal Service.
   - A minimum number of 50 returned ballots is needed for the balloting to be valid, both for elections and for consideration of proposed bylaw amendments.

During the past two years, other bylaw amendments were adopted to:
   - allow the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee to conduct business by telephone conference or other electronic communications media, as well as in person
   - allow the Board of Directors to offer reduced rates for Section dues for limited-time pilots projects, as an incentive to promote membership

All of these amendments have received final approval from APTA and are now officially part of the Acute Care Section bylaws. The updated bylaws, which will include all of the adopted amendments, will be posted on the section website by Feb. 23, 2015.

Over the coming months, the Bylaws Committee will be doing a complete review of the bylaws in comparison to APTA’s Model Bylaws for Sections, and will make recommendations for any needed changes to the Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact Bylaws Chair Lynn Rudman at lrudman@comcast.net with any questions or concerns.