

2025 Amplify Therapy Summit Kick-Off Celebration

Let us know where you're from in the comments!



Welcome!



Hello!

Clarice Grote, MS, OTR/L

Founder & CEO of Amplify OT
Medicare Specialist

- Host of the Amplify OT Podcast
- NCOTA Vice President
- Former AOTPAC Ambassador for NC
- 2024 Recipient of the AOTA Gary Kielhofner Emerging Leader Award
- Clinical experience in acute care, home health, lymphedema, basic wound care, and outpatient therapy
 - Cardiovascular ICU, COVID, telemetry, orthopedics

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Why the Summit?



**You have permission to be
frustrated, tired, and confused.**



**We are not individually
responsible for solving
every problem**

Knowledge is Power



Declining Reimbursement for OT Services

- The fee schedule was largely developed in 1991/1992
- MACRA passed in 2015 reforming the fee schedule to our current structure
- In 2019, MedPAC recommended pay increases for primary care services - specifically those related to care management
- CMS adjusted rates for those E/M codes and also created a new G code - these codes cannot be used by therapy practitioners
- Budget neutrality prohibits spending from increasing over \$20 million per year - these new adjustments far surpassed that



Declining Reimbursement for OT Services

- CMS created a conversion factor to calculate payment rates for all codes as way to balance overall increases to comply with budget neutrality
- 2021 CF was 11% lower than 2020... Therapy's share was about 9%
- Congress passed temporary funding increases at the last minute to reduce the 9% cut to 3.3%
- 2022 - proposed cut was 3.75% + OTA/PTA payment differential
 - Congress stepped in again with funding increase
- 2023 - proposed cut 4.5% - Congress reduced to 2%
- 2024 - proposed cut of 3.1%. - Congress reduced to 1.42% in March '24
- 2025 - Cut was 3% with no Congressional Action
- 2026 - Proposed cut is 2.93% - Funding increase in OBBS



**“Were there none who were
discontented with what they
have, the world would never reach
anything better.”**

~Florence Nightingale

What will call you to action?



**There is always a path, it just
may not be easy or popular**

Things Could be Better

Current issues within the
profession

- Burnout and Fatigue
- Stagnant Wages
- Decreasing Reimbursement
- Limited public understanding
- Ethical concerns
- Underrepresentation
- Uncertain political environment



In a State of Awareness



So what do we do?

- What is our responsibility to recognize problems and actively work towards solutions?
- How do we have these discussions while remaining ethical and maintaining professional integrity?



Moving Beyond Awareness Strengthening OT From Within



Awareness

Step 1

- Aware there are problems
- They bother us
- Know what they are



Acceptance

Step 2

- This is how things are right now
- Give ourselves and others grace
- Acknowledge our emotions and what is or is not within our control
- Accept responsibility vs displacing blame



Action

Step 3

Do something about it

But how?



“No one knows what OT is.”

A false acceptance

Why it needs to stop:

- It isn't true
- Displaces blame
- Discourages action
- It's not fair
- It's harmful


Instead, say “How can we show them what OT is?”



Start by Asking Questions

Are there any other agencies out there being affected by episodic (medicare) insurance limiting visits to the point OT can't even go in? I've had several evals that end up only getting seen for 1-2 visits and discharge because medicare things that should only have 4 visits and the agency gives them to PT... even had an office manager tell the OT team "PT can work on that" talking about ads..... I've been very frustrated lately because how can I help people if they won't give me visits to see them?!

I am being asked to cover PTA visits. I did not think it was legal for an OT to cover a PT routine visit & it be billed as PT visit. I'm having trouble finding specifics on this online. I'm in FL & want to double check myself before responding. Thanks!!!

Hi  Is there any way you can see this patient for her last PT visits on 6/12? The PTA that is following her will be out of town that day. Please let me know.

Thank you!

Hey there! Curious to see if other facilities are doing this... we were recently told that OT/PT evaluations have to pick up long term patients whether they are clinically appropriate or not for 2 weeks trials. Just wondering if this is a new Medicare rule or if any other facilities have had this brought up. Any info would be great! Thanks!



Action You Can Take

- Ask Questions
 - Where did you read that?
 - Where did the policy come from?
 - Can I see the policy in writing?
- Learn
 - Read your practice act
 - Read Medicare guidelines
 - Pay attention to AOTA resources and posts on changing policies
- Do
 - Seek mentorship
 - Get involved and be a member
 - Be the person who supports change and others
 - Speak up



Taking Meaningful Action

- How is this advancing or serving the profession?
- What impact will this have on others?
- What solutions can I propose to this problem?
- What is within my control vs outside of my control?

With simple actions, we can impart big change



There is no reward without risk.



Adherence

Step 4

- Practice makes perfect
- Have patience with yourself as you learn
- Acknowledge success
- Try, and try again.



**Every step you take lays a stone in
the path towards success.**



Your Call to Action

What is one action you can commit to today?

- Members in AOTA
- Membership in State Association
- Volunteer for a leadership/committee role
- Ask a question in your next staff meeting
- Be or seek a mentor
- Read your practice act
- Attend the summit



**Awareness is the first step, but
action is the only way forward.**



Amplify Therapy Summit 101



What to Expect This Week

General Admission:

- 24 hr access to sessions
 - Released at 12am and closed at 11:59pm EST
- All live and pre-recorded session

Explorer Pass:

- Access to sessions through September 3rd
- All live and pre-recorded sessions
- CEU Certificates
- Summit Community Group
- Ability to use Amplify OT App
- Live streaming of pre-recorded sessions with private chat



Ultimate Access

Annual Amplifier Membership:

- Year-round access to all 2025 and 2024 Summit Sessions
- Mastering OT Policy and Medicare Course
 - 5 module comprehensive advocacy and reimbursement course
- All Amplify OT Webinars and Courses
- All community and networking groups
- Use of the Amplify OT App
- CEU Certificates for all eligible sessions
- Free OT Amplifier T-shirt



Day 1 Schedule

10:00 - From Practice to Policy: Practical Professional Advocacy Tips (30 min)

11:15 - Inclusion and Affirmation for LGBTQIA+ (45 min)

12:30 - OT SPARK - Planning a Student Advocacy Event (35 min)

2 - 3 - AOTA Webinar on One Big Beautiful Bill (not affiliate with summit)

3:30 - Proof You Were Right: Telehealth and Community Programs (1 hr)

5:00 - Modernizing Your Practice Act (1 hr)

6:30 - Speaking to the Goals of Decision Makers (1 hr)



Day 2 Schedule

11 - Strategies for OT Engagement with HH Starts of Care (1 hr)

1:00 - Maximizing Benefits of OT Practice Using the Caregiver Codes (40 min)

2:00 - Payer Policy Updates Practitioners Need to Know (1 hr)

3:30 - Innovating with OT in Dementia Care: Start with This Triangle (1 hr)

5:00 - Panel: Addressing the HH Crisis: How to Improve OT's role in Home Health (1-1.5 hrs)



Day 3 Schedule

10:00 - Beyond Boundaries: Advocating for Full-Scope OT Practice in Medication Management

11:30 - Empowering through Digital Accessibility: Why OTPs Need to Care

12:30 - Billing the Sensory Integrative Techniques Code (1 hr)

2:00 - Addressing the Whole Body in Orthopedics (1 hr)

3:30 - Wrap-Up Celebration! (30 min - 1 hr)



Google Calendar

Link to add all sessions to your calendar:

[GOOGLE CALENDAR LINK](#)


Events include the most up-to-date times if anything changes and also will have links to the sessions or zoom links

THU 31	FRI 1	SAT 2
From Practice 10am, https://	From Practice 10am, https://	Beyond Boundaries: Advocacy 10 – 11am
Inclusion and Affirmation for 11:15am – 12:15pm	Strategies for OT Engagement 11am – 12pm	Empowering Through Digital 11:30am – 12:15pm
OT SPARK - Planning a Study 12:30 – 1:30pm	Maximize benefits of OT Practice 1 – 1:45pm	Billing the Sensory Integration 12:30 – 1:30pm
AOTA: Understanding 2pm, https://w	Payer Policy Updates Practice 2 – 3pm	Advocating for OT's Role in 2 – 3pm
Proof that You are Right! Effective 3:30pm, https://us06web.zoom	From Screening Cognition to 3:30 – 4:30pm	Summit Wrap Up 3:30 – 4:30pm
Modernizing Your Scope of Practice 5 – 6pm	HH Panel - Megan, Karen, and 5 – 6pm	
Speaking to the Goals of De 3:30 – 7:30pm		



How to Attend LIVE Sessions

- Live events are hosted via Zoom
- Link is available on:
 - Google Calendar Event
 - Amplify Therapy Summit Home Page
 - Course outline on Learning Platform
- Recording will be uploaded within 24 hours



The event card features a circular portrait of Melissa Kimmerling, a woman with blonde hair wearing a blue blazer over a red top. In the top-left corner of the card is a red circular icon with a white play button and the word "LIVE" in white. Below the portrait, the title "Modernizing Your Scope of Practice: Collaborating for Success" is displayed in bold. Underneath the title is the speaker's name, "Melissa Kimmerling, Ed.D, MOT, OTR/L". The event time "LIVE - 5-6 pm EST" is shown below the name. At the bottom right is a pink button with the text "JOIN EVENT". A large blue arrow with a black outline points from the left towards the "JOIN EVENT" button.

**Modernizing Your Scope of Practice:
Collaborating for Success**

Melissa Kimmerling, Ed.D, MOT, OTR/L

LIVE - 5-6 pm EST

[JOIN EVENT](#)



How to Attend Pre-Recorded Sessions

- Times listed are only for the live chats available to Express Pass, Student, and Annual Amplifiers
- Recordings will be released at 12:00am EST and closed at 11:59pm EST for general admission
- Access on Learning Platform or the Summit Home Page

If you attempt to access it before it is published, there will be a 404 page



Live Chat for Pre-Recorded Sessions

- Hosted via Zoom and Continuous Chat
- Brief intro and live streamed recording
- If available the speaker may attend and participate in the chat
- Zoom link is on the Learning Platform Course page (must be logged in to view)



Logged Out View

Live Stream and Chat: Thursday, July 31 @ 10 am EST

This resource is available for:

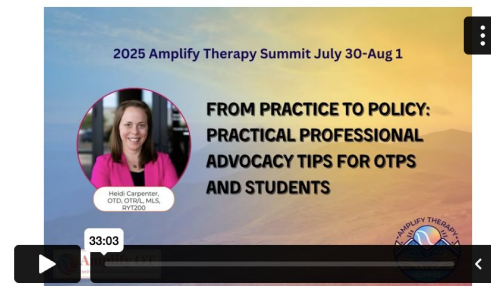
- Explorer Pass
- Annual Amplifier
- Student Amplifier (6 months, annual, 2 year)
- Faculty Amplifiers

Protected Content

This material is reserved as a special perk for individuals with an [Explorer Pass](#), [Student Memberships](#), or the [Annual Amplifier Membership](#). Please [log in](#) to access this content, or you can upgrade at the links provided.

Thanks!

Logged In View



Live Stream and Chat: Thursday, July 31 @ 10 am EST

This resource is available for:

- Explorer Pass
- Annual Amplifier
- Student Amplifier (6 months, annual, 2 year)
- Faculty Amplifiers


Join Via Zoom




Logging In to Your Account


- No need to log in if you are general admission (you won't have an account)
- If you have a membership or Explorer Pass - select "Login" and not "create account"




 Member Home

 Student Home

 Student Plans

 Shop

 Login

 Create Account



Sign in with Username/ Email and Password

Welcome to the Amplify OT Learning Platform!

New here? [Create an account](#) Create an account to get started! 🎉

If you already have an account, welcome back and login. 🙌



Sign in

☐ Remember Me[Forgot Password?](#)[Terms of Service and Privacy Policy](#)

Once Logged In:

The screenshot displays the Amplify OT Learning Platform interface. On the left is a sidebar menu with categories: GET STARTED (Start Here/ FAQ, Profile, Membership, Student Home), COMMUNITIES (All Groups, Universities), RESOURCES (2025 Summit Page, Courses), and FACULTY RESOURCES (Faculty Dashboard, Student Reports). The '2025 Summit Page' is circled in red. The top navigation bar includes the Amplify OT logo, a mountain icon (circled in red), and user information for Clarice Grote. The main content area shows a course titled 'From Practice to Policy: Practical Advocacy Tips for OTPs and Students' with a progress bar at 0% and a video player. The video player shows a thumbnail for the 2025 Amplify Therapy Summit with a 33:03 duration. Below the video, there is a section for a live stream and chat on Thursday, July 31 @ 10 am EST, with a 'Join Via Zoom' button.

Amplify OT Learning Platform

Clarice Grote

Lesson Materials

< Back to Course

From Practice to Policy: Practical Advocacy Tips for OTPs and Students

0% Complete
Last activity on 07/29/2025 11:11 pm

From Practice to Policy Lesson

2025 Amplify Therapy Summit July 30-Aug 1

FROM PRACTICE TO POLICY: PRACTICAL PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY TIPS FOR OTPS AND STUDENTS

33:03

Live Stream and Chat: Thursday, July 31 @ 10 am EST

This resource is available for:

- Explorer Pass
- Annual Amplifier
- Student Amplifier (6 months, annual, 2 year)
- Faculty Amplifiers

Join Via Zoom



Continuing Education

- Sessions range from .5 to 1 credit hour or PDU
- Sessions are not AOTA approved, but are accepted by majority of states and NBCOT
- Certificates will be available in your account once the event has ended under “certificates” tabs
 - Be sure to download your certificates BEFORE your access ends or you may have difficulty gaining access later
- Must complete the course to earn a certificate
 - Ensure lessons are marked “complete”
- We will send email reminders



The screenshot shows the Amplify OT user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for a home, user, lock, and a profile dropdown. The profile dropdown is open, showing the user's name "Clarice Grote" and a list of menu items: Messages, Notifications, Profile, Courses, Practice Resources, Community, Faculty Dashboard, Support, Amplify OT Home, Podcast, and Log Out. The "Courses" item is highlighted with a red circle. Below the menu, there is a video player showing a live stream titled "2025 Amplify Therapy Summit" with a thumbnail of a woman. The video player has a play button and a progress bar. Below the video player, there is a section titled "Live Stream and Cha" with the date "July 31 @ 10 am EST". Below this, there is a list of resources available for the user: Explorer Pass, Annual Amplifier, and Student Amplifier (6 months, annual, 2 year). The "Certificates" link in the video player thumbnail is also circled in red.

Clarice Grote

Messages

Notifications

Profile

Courses

Practice Resources

Community

Faculty Dashboard

Support

» Amplify OT Home

Podcast

Log Out

2025 Amplify Therapy Summit

FROM PRACT

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Certificates

33:05

Live Stream and Cha

July 31 @ 10 am EST

This resource is available for:

- Explorer Pass
- Annual Amplifier
- Student Amplifier (6 months, annual, 2 year)

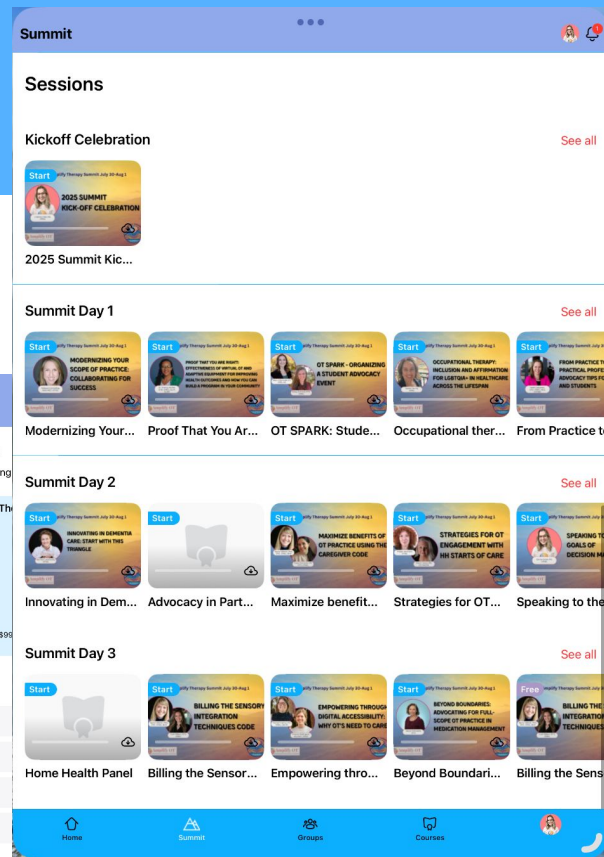
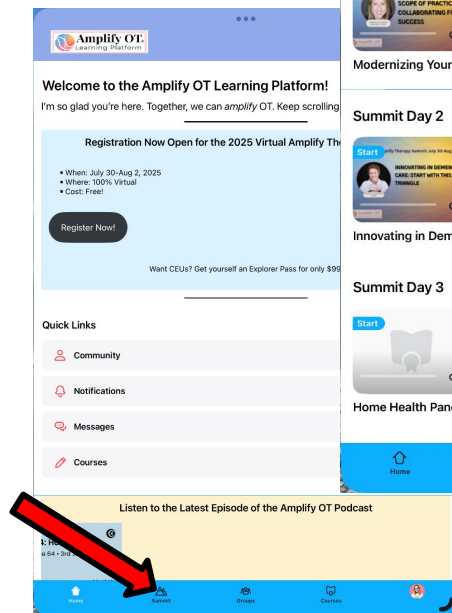


Mark Complete ✓



Amplify OT App

- Must have an account on the Learning Platform to access
- Available on Android and iOS
- Log in with your same information
- Videos on the app can be 'downloaded' for offline viewing



How to get the most out of sessions

- Take notes
- Ask questions! In the chat or live
 - Take advantage of access to these experts!
- Take advantage of the ability to pause the recording
- Slides and worksheets available in Lesson Materials (if provided)
- Watch with a friend
- Upgrade to Explorer Pass or Annual Membership



Questions or Tech Issues?

Send us an email at Cgrote@amplifyot.com or admin@amplifyot.com and we'll get back to you ASAP.

If a link isn't working or there is an issue WE WANT TO KNOW

If you have questions, that is also good for us to know so we can improve the process for next time.



Questions?



Happy Exploring!!!

