



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

About AOPA:

Founded in 1917, the American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association (**AOPA**), based in Alexandria, Virginia, is the largest non-profit organization dedicated to helping orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) businesses and professionals navigate the multitude of issues surrounding the delivery of quality patient care. With nearly 2,000 members, AOPA has a nationwide presence within the O&P community. **AOPA** serves the O&P profession with consistent representation on Capitol Hill, premier publications, high-quality coding products, expert reimbursement guidance and a full slate of education programming on O&P-specific issues. 2008 marks **AOPA's** 91st anniversary of serving as the voice for O&P.

Purpose:

AOPA provides members with resources that ensure high-quality patient care, educate public policy makers, influencers and third party payers about the critical role played by orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) professionals in delivering care, and protect the profession from threats. O&P Professionals serve prosthetic (artificial limbs), orthotic (orthopedic braces) and pedorthic (shoes and shoe inserts) patients.

Key Patient Facts

- In 2006, Medicare approved payment for over 2 million orthotic codes that accounted for more than \$406 million in Medicare expenditures.*
- The orthotic code with the highest Medicare expenditure in 2006 was a jointed rigid positional knee orthosis. Medicare approved payment for 50,000 braces at a value of over \$26 million.
- In 2006, Medicare allowed nearly 2.5 million prosthetic codes for \$628 million in Medicare expenditures.*
- The prosthetic code with the highest Medicare expenditure in 2006 was for a specific type of a basic, lower limb prosthesis. Medicare approved payment of more than \$53 million for these components.
- Medicare approved nearly 6 million pedorthic codes and \$213 million in payments in 2006.*
- The pedorthic code with the highest Medicare expenditure in 2006 was an off-the-shelf diabetic shoe. Medicare approved payment for over 1.5 million shoes for a payment of \$89 million.

The risk of losing a foot or leg is 15-40 times higher for people living with diabetes than for those without the disease, according to the American Diabetes Association (ADA). More than 80,000 diabetes-related lower limb amputations are performed every year in the U.S., the International Diabetes Federation reports. Another 30,000 limb amputations result annually from Peripheral Vascular Disease.

Industry Facts

- More than 3,000 patient care facilities provide orthotic and prosthetic services
- More than 800 facilities provide pedorthic services
- AOPA estimates that O&P businesses provide patient care services worth more than \$3.5 billion annually
- More than \$60 million in government funds has been earmarked for research related to orthotic and prosthetic needs by veterans

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* A complete orthotic, prosthetic, and/or pedorthic device may utilize several codes; therefore you cannot obtain an average cost per device by dividing expenditures by the number of codes.