



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

October 16th, 2014

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Upcoming AOPA Events

Oct 20-21 *Mastering Medicare: Coding & Billing Techniques Seminar*
St. Louis, MO
[Learn more or register online here](#)

Nov 12 *Gifts: Showing Appreciation Without Violating the Law*
Webinar Conference
[Learn more or register online here](#)

Dec 10 *New Codes and Changes for 2015*
Webinar Conference
[Learn more or register online here](#)

October 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
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| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |



AOPA is pleased to announce the topics for its 2015 Webinars! This series is an improved, more interactive format of the familiar Audio Conferences. The webinars allow you to watch and listen in the comfort of your office on the second Wednesday of each month from 1:00-2:00 PM Eastern, and have a written copy of the presentation for your records.

There is one registration required per computer terminal, but multiple staff members may participate. Participants earn 1.5 CEs for scoring 80% on the associated quiz within 30 days. The cost is \$199 for non-members, and \$99 for members. Use the code “member” for the discounted member price of \$99, and any second registration from your company is just \$25 with the code “affiliate”.

Buy the Series and Get Two FREE! [Sign up for the whole series.](#)

REGISTER NOW



2015 Webinar Topics

Jan: [Fill In the Blanks: VA Contracting and the New Template](#)

Feb: [Find Success: Tips, Strategies and Understanding the Appeals Process](#)

March: [Who Gets the Bill: A Complete Look at Medicare Inpatient Billing](#)

April: [Lower Limb Prosthesis Policy: Learn the Policy Inside and Out](#)

May: [The New Player in Town: Understand How the RAC Contract Works](#)

June: [Stay Out of Trouble: Building a Medicare Approved Compliance Plan](#)

July: [Who's on First? Medicare as a Secondary Payer](#)

Aug: [OTS vs. Custom Fit: The True Story](#)

Sep: [Prior Authorization, How does it Work](#)

October: [Understanding the LSO/TLSO Policy](#)

Nov: [How to Make a Good Impression: Marketing Yourself to Your Referrals](#)

Dec: [Bringing the New Year: New Codes and Changes for 2016](#)

And don't forget to register for the November Webinar: [Gifts: Showing Appreciation without Violating the Law](#)

Medicare has very specific rules about what you can and cannot do. There will also be a general discussion of types of activity that can be interpreted as a kickback.

- When gifts to referral sources are acceptable
- When gifts to patients are acceptable
- Federal Anti-Kickback regulation prohibitions
- Doing something nice vs. doing something illegal

REGISTER NOW



Contact Devon Bernard at DBernard@AOPAnet.org or 571/431-0854 with content questions.

Contact Betty Leppin at BLEppin@AOPAnet.org or 571/431-0876 with registration questions.

Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals to Host Second Medicare Appellant Forum



The Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA) has announced that it will hold its second Medicare Appellant Forum on Wednesday, October 29, 2014. The purpose of the forum is to provide updates on OMHA efforts to address and reduce the extended wait times for Medicare Administrative Law Judge hearings since the initial forum that was held on February 12, 2014. The meeting will be held in Washington DC at the Wilbur J. Cohen federal building located at 300 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20024.

AOPA will attend the meeting and provide a full report to members but attendance is open to the public. Pre-registration is required and attendance is limited to a maximum of two individuals per organization. AOPA members who wish to attend the meeting in person may [register here](#).

OMHA has announced that the meeting will also be accessible via a live streaming webinar for the first 1,000 registrants. [Register for the webinar](#).

Questions regarding this issue may be directed to Joe McTernan at JMcternan@AOPAnet.org or Lauren Anderson at LAnderson@AOPAnet.org.

What's Going on in the Stock Market? An Expert Summary

AOPA has used the same investment Advisor, CJM Wealth Management for more than 20 years to conservatively manage AOPA's reserves, or "rainy day fund." The following analysis of recent stock market and investment activity may be of interest to many AOPA members.

Volatility has returned to the stock market after a lengthy absence. Periods of large swings like we have seen over the past several days have occurred with some regularity in the past and are not necessarily an indication of an impending market crash. Volatility and market corrections are normal occurrences in the stock market.



The market today was subjected to waves of selling followed by bargain-hunter buying. At one point, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 460 points, before rebounding strongly to finish the day 173 points lower, or 1.1%. The Dow is 6.6% off its high from mid-September. The Standard & Poor's 500 dropped 0.8% today to put it 7.4% off its highs. Both are still short of being in correction, which is commonly defined as a 10% or greater drop. To reach that level, the Dow Jones Industrial Average would need to fall another 590 points.

These losses come after a tremendous upswing in stock prices since the depths of the financial crisis in 2008-2009. For the year, the S&P 500 is still up 0.8%, but the Dow is down 2.6%. Looking at performance from one year ago today, the S&P is up 9.7%, while the Dow is 6.4% higher.



There are many reasons for the recent gyrations including worrying signs about the European economy, sharply lower oil prices, the possible effect of potential interest rate increases and poor U.S. retail sales figures for September. Despite these pressures, the U.S. economy still looks to be on its slow growth path and interest rates have declined during the selloff as investors seek safety in U.S. government bonds.

CAPO and CBCPO Have Voted to Merge

The Canadian Association for Prosthetics and Orthotics (CAPO) and the Canadian Board for Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists (CBCPO) have announced the results of the October 9 Amalgamation vote.

The near unanimous vote and excellent response rate from members of both organizations provides a very clear message that members are looking forward to a united organization working toward a positive future.



The CAPO and CBCPO Boards will meet again this Fall to manage the business of the respective organizations before Orthotics Prosthetics Canada/ Orthèse Prothèse Canada comes into being on January 1, 2015.

Join Amputee Coalition for Kicking for Kids Who Can't

The Amputee Coalition is hosting Kicking for Kids Who Can't, an exciting day with activities for people of all ages. The event will include Zumba led by instructor Natalie Pickett, martial arts demonstrations by Ronald Mann, a below-knee amputee and black belt in Muay Thai, kickball games and more. The event is open to all ability levels; everyone is welcome!

When: Saturday, October 18 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where: Constitution Gardens on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., near the intersection of Constitution Avenue and 20th Street

The first 100 people to register online will get a T-shirt, and all registrants will get a Kicking for Kids wristband! [Register now.](#)



Every dollar raised beyond the cost of the event goes directly to support children living with limb loss or limb difference.

2015 Medicare Part A & Part B Premiums and Deductibles Announced



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced the Medicare premium and deductible rates for 2015. The monthly Medicare Part B premium will begin at \$104.90, the same as it was in 2014. The Medicare Part B deductible for 2015 has not increased and will remain set at \$147.00; the Medicare Part B coinsurance remains at 20 percent of the Medicare allowed charge.

The Medicare Part A deductible for 2015 is set at \$1,260 which represents a \$44 increase over the 2014 amount, and the daily co-insurance amount for days 61-90 is \$315 and the lifetime reserve day's rate is set at \$630. Lastly, the SNF Part A extended care days (day 21-100) will be \$157.50 for 2015.

Contact Devon Bernard at DBernard@AOPAnet.org or 571/431-0854 with questions.

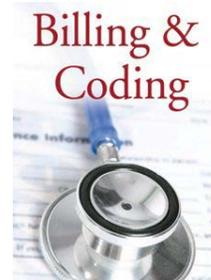
There's Still Time to Register for the Coding & Billing Seminar in St. Louis

AOPA ESSENTIAL CODING & BILLING SEMINAR – ST. LOUIS Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel, October 20-21, 2014

Compliance, Coding, Billing, Audits, Documentation -- We've got you covered! *What better place than the "Show Me" state to host the final Coding & Billing Seminar of 2014?* This interactive seminar is meant for both practitioners and office staff. The advanced two-day seminar features specialized break-out sessions for each group to ensure review of concentration specific materials.

Earn 14 Continuing Education Credits from ABC or BOC and course credit for the AOPA Business Certificate Program.

AOPA experts, with over 70 years of combined experience, provide you the most up-to-date guidance to help O&P Practitioners & office billing staff learn how to code complex devices, including repairs.



REGISTER NOW



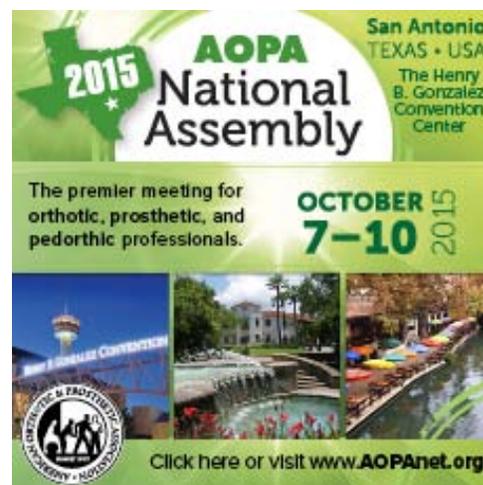
Save the Date for the 2015 AOPA National Assembly!

Save The Date—October 7-10, 2015 AOPA's 98th National Assembly San Antonio Riverwalk

Make plans now to attend the 2015 National Assembly, Oct. 7-10, 2015 in San Antonio.

The 2015 Assembly will be held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, located on San Antonio's famous Riverwalk.

San Antonio's River Walk is one of the most visited sites in Texas, providing scenic pathways and waterways for the city's cultural and historic sites, as well as a picturesque link between restaurants, hotels and shops. The [San Antonio River Walk](#) is a verdant oasis of cypress-lined paved paths, arched stone bridges and lush landscapes. It gently winds through the city center, providing millions of visitors each year with easy access to the city's cultural hot spots, historic sites and other attractions.



See you in San Antonio! Remember #AOPA15

