**Mobility Saves – An Invitation to ITEM Coalition Members to Partner in a Cost Effectiveness Research Message**

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A major new study commissioned by the American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association (AOPA) and the Amputee Coalition, conducted by Dr. Allen Dobson, health economist and former director of the Office of Research at CMS (then the Health Care Financing Administration) shows that the Medicare program pays more over the long-term in most cases when Medicare patients are not provided with replacement lower limbs, spinal orthotics, and hip/knee/ankle orthotics.

The study's authors used the Medicare Claims database to review all Medicare claims data for patients with conditions that justified the provision of lower limb orthoses, spinal orthoses, and lower limb prostheses. The unprecedented study looked at nearly 42,000 paired sets of Medicare beneficiaries with claims from 2007-2010. The paired patients either received orthotic and prosthetic care or they did not get such care.

"The studies are a win/win proposition. The patients are much better off. Using less hospital care. Using less emergency room care" said Report Author Dr. Allen Dobson. The study's key finding was that Medicare costs are lower or similar for patients who received orthotic or prosthetic services, compared to patients who need, but do not receive, these services. "Looking at full costs and other outcomes (including use of out-patient therapy, number of falls, ER admissions, and acute hospitalizations) over a 12-18 month period, our study concludes that patients who received the orthotic and prosthetic services experienced greater independence than patients who do not, with better or comparable health outcomes and generally lower Medicare payments."

([Click here to watch the interview with Dr. Allen Dobson along with patient testimonies and more information on Mobility Saves](http://www.broadcastnewsresource.com/news/Mobility-Saves-AOPA))

* For a good, quick overview of Mobility Saves, check out <http://www.mobilitysaves.org/about.php#video>, and click through to: The Bigger Picture: The Story of Mobility Saves
* To see how much Medicare has saved so far this year as a result of treatments that restored mobility to Medicare amputees and limb-impaired patients, go to [MobilitySaves.org](http://www.mobilitysaves.org) and see the savings calculator.
* To view and secure access to all of the videos on these patients and the full story on Mobility Saves, [please click here](http://www.broadcastnewsresource.com/news/Mobility-Saves-AOPA), or go to: <http://www.broadcastnewsresource.com/news/Mobility-Saves-AOPA>

The study’s key finding:  Patients who received orthotic or prosthetic services have lower or comparable Medicare costs than patients who need, but do not receive, these services.  According to the study, Medicare could experience 10 percent savings ($2,920 less) for those receiving lower extremity orthoses and comparable payments for patients receiving spinal orthoses and lower extremity prostheses.

Patients are generally able to become less bedbound and more independent, which may be associated with fewer emergency room (ER) admissions and acute care hospital admissions. The reduced use of hospital services and facility-based care offsets the cost of the devices, producing Medicare savings and better quality-of-life outcomes for patients. Below are thorough results representative of what was written about this groundbreaking study of orthotic and prosthetic services and how they save not cost the payers over the long run.

Bottom line is so far in 2014, the Medicare program has saved over $200 Million as a result of the cost effectiveness of patients receiving orthotic and prosthetic care. AOPA and the Amputee Coalition want to welcome and encourage members of the ITEM Coalition to join us as partners in spreading the good news of Mobility Saves to your memberships through this notice, links to Mobility Saves...coordination with you on our social media outreach and through your contributions of content and patient stakeholder input for mobility saves. Please contact either Tom Fise at tfise@AOPAnet.org or Lauren Anderson (landerson@AOPAnet.org to initiate our coordination.

O&P care is cost effective - Access the study, white paper, brochures, and other resources at [MobilitySaves.org](http://www.mobilitysaves.org) and spread the word: ***"Orthotic & Prosthetic care is a saver, not a coster to insurers."***

[Access the Study & Find all the tools you'll need at: MobilitySaves.org](http://www.mobilitysaves.org)