



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

February 12, 2015

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BOC Earns NCCA Reaccreditation

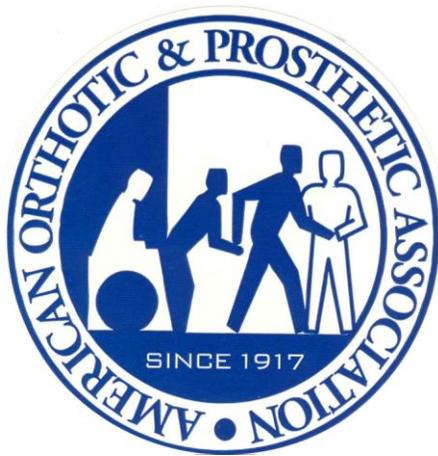


The Board of Certification/Accreditation (BOC) recently earned NCCA reaccreditation for its Pedorthist certification program for another five-year period. BOC first received NCCA accreditation for the BOCPD certification program in 2008. Approximately 275 professionals are currently certified as BOC Pedorthists (BOCPDs).

Founded in 1984, BOC is a professional credentialing organization acting in the public interest by establishing and enforcing education, examination, experience, and ethics requirements for six professional certification programs. BOC is deemed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to award accreditation to DMEPOS facilities that demonstrate commitment to patient care and sound business practices.

BOC earned renewal of the NCCA accreditation by submitting an application demonstrating the Pedorthist program's compliance with the NCCA's *Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs*. NCCA then reviewed the program's policies and procedures, skills set, assessment methods, and statistical procedures for validating results.

3 -D Printing Reporting May Be Creating Unrealistic Expectations



No question that 3-D printing technology will play a big role in many fields and orthotics and prosthetics will undoubtedly be one of them. One troubling aspect of current media coverage, however, is that the reported cost comparison of the low cost of upper limb 3-D devices (most of which presumably are developed at most, as investigational devices without full FDA compliance or approval for marketing) with the cost of the existing prosthetic devices, available with full regulatory compliance in the marketplace. Often the 3-D devices are cited as costing a few hundred dollars but then the 3-D device is contrasted with traditional O&P devices costing thousands, pegged by some media reports as high as \$80,000.

Lost in the reporting is the fact that the 3-D devices widely reported thus far are body powered devices and if there are going to be cost comparisons, those comparisons should be with traditional devices currently on the market that are also body powered, often with the same limitations in functionality that the current crop of 3-D devices provide. What's also missed in the reporting is an accurate cost comparison acknowledging the clinical skills involved in delivering traditional devices by qualified providers such as the clinical evaluation, fitting, adjustment and other follow-up necessary for the patient's well being.

The concern over the unrealistic expectations that are being created by inaccurate media reports is that the body powered 3-D devices should be compared with similar body-powered traditional upper limb devices. Body powered upper limb prosthetics provided by a qualified provider may often cost \$1,500 to \$5,000 for many patients – not the \$60,000 to \$80,000 seen in some reporting. Unassessed in the economic equation is the possible disappointment amputees may face as they look forward to a 3-D device providing a solution to their upper limb functional challenges that may not be realistic.

To help members set the record straight as they see these misleading press reports; AOPA has posted a brief statement on the [AOPA website](#) and on the [Mobility Saves](#) website. Please take a few minutes to read the statement as you may want to refer any local reporters to this balanced comment on the role of 3-D in O&P.

Get The Latest O&P Education in Seattle!

AOPAversity

The AOPA Coding Experts are Coming to Seattle April 13-14!



The world of coding and billing has changed dramatically in the last few years. The AOPA experts are here for you! The Coding & Billing Seminar will teach you the most up-to-date information to advance your O&P practitioners' and billing staff's coding knowledge.

The seminar includes hands-on breakout sessions, where you will practice coding complex devices, including repairs and adjustments. Breakouts are tailored specifically for practitioners and billing staff. Start the year off right for your business, staff, and patients!

Join your Colleagues April 13 & 14 in Seattle, WA!

Today's Top 10 Reasons to Attend

1. **Get Your Claims PAID**
2. **Increase Your Company's Bottom Line**
3. **Stay Up-To-Date On Billing Medicare**
4. **Code Complex Devices**
5. **Earn 14 CE Credits**
6. **Learn About Audit Updates**
7. **Overturn Denials**
8. **Submit YOUR Specific Questions Ahead of Time**
9. **Advance Your Career**
10. **AOPA Coding & Billing Experts with over 70 Years of Combined Experience**



Don't miss the opportunity to experience two jam-packed days of valuable O&P coding and billing information. [Learn more and see the rest of the year's schedule here.](#)

REGISTER NOW!

Spring into Change!



You can make a difference!

AOPA 2015 POLICY FORUM

MARCH 23-24, 2015
Special Extended Program March 24-25

AOPA POLICY FORUM



Meet your Members of Congress in Washington, DC with AOPA!

The 2015 AOPA Policy Forum will be held March 23-24, 2015 with post-conference events being held March 24-25 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN.

Register at bit.ly/policyforum2015.

Support your profession!

Make your plans now to attend the 2015 AOPA Policy Forum.

EARN CREDITS
10.5 CE
Applied For

Stay an extra day to participate in post-forum education modules and earn 10.5 CE Credits.



Location

Renaissance Hotel
999 Ninth St., NW
Washington, DC

Registration Fees

Policy Forum	\$150
Module I	\$200
Module II	\$300
Entire Program	\$575 (save \$75!)

BIG VALUE
EARN UP TO
10.5 CE
CREDITS!

Support your profession, make your plans today!



Meet your member of Congress and tell them how, through orthotics and prosthetics:



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association
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Catch the Latest Updates With AOPA's Webinar Series

Monthly Webinar Series

What is it? This is Regulatory and Business education that you can count on. No one in the O&P profession knows the ins and outs of Medicare, coding, billing or VA contracting like AOPA.

[Sign up](#) for all 2015 Webinars for only \$990 for members... that's 2 free webinars! If you missed one, we will send you the recording. The monthly Webinars are a great way to bring your staff together for lunchtime learning by AOPA experts.

January 14	Fill In the Blanks: VA Contracting and the New Template
February 11	Tips, Strategies and Understanding the Appeals Process
March 11	Who Gets the Bill: A Look at Medicare Inpatient Billing
April 8	Lower Limb Prostheses Policy: Learn the Policy Inside and Out
May 13	The New Player in Town: Understand the RAC Contract
June 10	Building a Medicare Approved Compliance Plan
July 8	Who's on First? Medicare as a Secondary Payer
August 12	OTS vs. Custom Fit: The True Story
September 9	Prior Authorization, How Does it Work
October 14	Understanding the LSO/TLSO Policy
November 11	Make a Good Impression: Marketing Yourself to Referrals
December 9	Bringing in the New Year: New Codes and Changes for 2016

Call for Papers: Become a Presenter at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly



The AOPA National Assembly Planning Committee has issued a call for papers for the 98th Annual AOPA National Assembly to be held October 7-10, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas. The submission deadline is March 10, 2015.

Share your expertise and advance your career by being part of the country's oldest and largest meeting for the orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic profession.

- Papers are being accepted for podium, poster and/or symposium sessions for each of the five concurrent education tracks (orthotic, prosthetic, pedorthic, technician, and business). For more information or to submit a paper [click here](#).
- All submission must be submitted electronically.
- Before submitting a paper, please review the model for the abstract format which also provides additional information about the submission process. The model abstract is [available here](#).

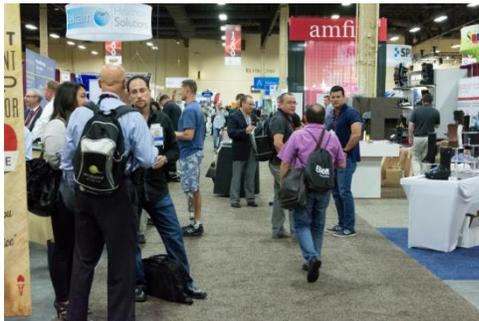
For general information about the Assembly

Visit: <http://www.aopanet.org/education/2015-assembly/>

Email: Assembly@AOPAnet.org

Contact: Tina Moran at (571) 431-0808.

Don't miss this unique, fun learning experience.



AOPA is currently accepting exhibit applications for the 2015 AOPA National Assembly, which is due to take place in San Antonio, TX on October 7-10, 2014. The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center will serve as the event's venue. This event, the oldest and largest of its kind in the United States, will feature dedicated tracks of the most relevant education for prosthetists, orthotists, technicians, pedorthists and business managers.

Why Exhibit?

Exhibiting at this important event will give you the opportunity to:

- Build your customer base and increase sales by meeting with Owners who actually make the final decisions on purchases.
- Experience face-to-face time with existing customers to answer questions and build new relationships.
- Enjoy sponsored networking opportunities, including an opening reception in the exhibit hall.
- Take advantage of fun traffic-building opportunities.
- Take advantage of education sessions to learn what's happening with Medicare, and other regulatory agencies that affect the success of your product.
- Increase visibility for your company/organization in a targeted market.
- Host a Manufacturer's Workshop and/or Product Preview Theater presentation.
- Speak to AOPA reimbursement experts, who can answer all your O&P coding, reimbursement and compliance questions.
- Hear from top researchers and clinicians to learn what products and support is needed from manufacturers.
- Participate in key education programs and plenary sessions.

Who Attends?

Access to key Decision Makers

O&P Practitioners, pedorthists, physicians, technicians, fitters, students, educational instructors, facility owners, marketing personnel, physical therapists, residents, office managers, billing specialists, occupational therapists, researchers, engineers, manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of O&P products and services.

What you will Get?

As an exhibitor you will receive:

- 24 hour perimeter security guard service.
- FREE breakfast and lunch.
- Exhibitor Service Kit—Exhibitors will receive two sets of information. The first will be the Exhibitor Confirmation Packet that contains your booth assignment, payment confirmation, and additional materials. The second set of information is the Exhibitor Service Kit which is an online guide provided by Freeman Decorating that includes all information and order forms you need to plan a successful trade show event; to include shipping information, booth rental, electric and internet needs.
- Exhibitor Newsletters—provide you with up to date information regarding the show.

- Complimentary exhibitor company listing on the National Assembly website, O&P Almanac, show APP and 2015 National Assembly Preliminary Program.
- Opening night reception for all attendees held in the exhibit hall
- Post-event registration mailing list of all National Assembly attendees.
- Two exhibitor full conference badges (per 10x10 exhibit space) which include: admission to all education sessions, CE credits, meeting materials, social functions, and lunch tickets.
- Private lounge area exclusive to exhibitors.

Sign up today to exhibit at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly!

Upcoming AOPA Events	
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Feb 11, 2015	<i>Find Success: Tips, Strategies and Understanding the Appeals Process</i> Webinar Conference Learn more or register online here
March 10, 2015	Deadline for <i>National Assembly Call for Papers</i> Learn more and apply online here
March 11, 2015	<i>Who Gets the Bill: A Complete Look at Medicare Inpatient Billing</i> Webinar Conference Learn more or register online here
March 23-25	<i>AOPA Policy Forum</i> Washington, DC Learn more or register online here
April 8, 2015	<i>Lower-Limb Prosthesis Policy: Learn the Policy Inside and Out</i> Webinar Conference Learn more or register online here
April 13-14	<i>Essential Coding & Billing Techniques Seminar</i> Seattle, WA Learn more or register online here