



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

April 28, 2015

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CMS Announces Updated Interest Rate for Overpayments and Underpayments

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has announced that, effective for claims with a date of service on or after April 17, 2015, the interest rate for both Medicare overpayments and underpayments has been adjusted to 9.875%. This represents a significant decrease from the last Quarterly update of 10.5% that was effective for claims with a date of service on or after January 1, 2015.

The Medicare interest rate is updated quarterly and is based on the higher of the private consumer rate or the current value of funds rate prevailing on the date of final determination of a claim.

Questions regarding the current Medicare interest rate may be directed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@aopanet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@aopanet.org.

AOPA Staff Participates In Jurisdiction C DME MAC Advisory Council Meeting

Last week, AOPA staff participated in the Jurisdiction C DME MAC Advisory Council meeting. The DME MAC Advisory Council is a group of state and national associations who represent the interests of the DMEPOS community and typically meet on a quarterly basis and provide valuable feedback to the DME MAC Medical Directors, provider outreach and medical review staff regarding issues that are of concern to the supplier community. AOPA actively participates on all four DME MAC Advisory Councils. Last week's meeting was held in Nashville, Tennessee and included active discussions with Robert Hoover, M.D., the Jurisdiction C DME MAC Medical Director.

The most significant take away from the meeting was the announcement of the product categories for inclusion in the next round of Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Bidding (Round 1 2017). While off the shelf orthoses were eligible for inclusion in the Round 1 2017 competitive bidding program, they were not among the product categories identified for inclusion in the program.

Participation in the DME MAC Advisory Councils provides AOPA with open access to the DME MAC staff, including the Medical Directors and has helped to facilitate the development of strong professional relationships with key staff at the DME MACs.

Questions regarding AOPA's participation in the Advisory Councils may be direct to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@aopanet.org.

Limb Loss Education Day



The Amputee Coalition is hosting Limb Loss Education Day (LLED) this Saturday, May 2nd, 2015 in Washington, D.C. The event is being held at the George Washington University Lerner Health and Wellness Center.

Sessions:

Dr. Terrence Sheehan – *The Team Approach*

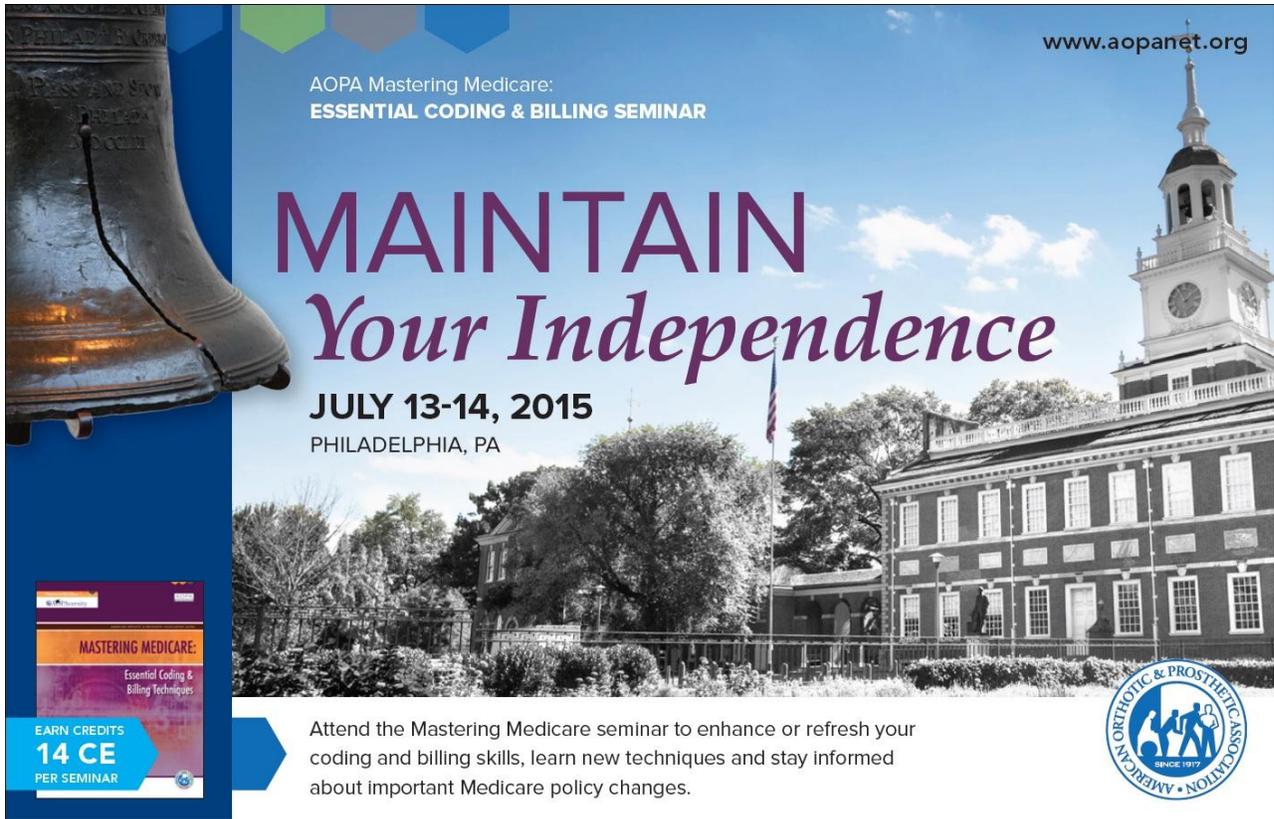
Dr. Megan Hosey – *Health and Emotional Benefits of Remaining Active*

Kelly McGaughey, PT, DPT, and Annemarie Orr, OTR/L – *How to Get the Most Out of the Rehabilitation Process*

Adaptive recreation:

This LLED will be held in conjunction with Össur's Running & Mobility Clinic, presented by the Challenged Athletes Foundation and featuring Bob Gailey! NOTE: Once you have completed and submitted the registration form for the LLED, you will receive a confirmation email with a link for registering for the Mobility Clinic. You must complete the additional registration form from the link in the LLED confirmation email to attend the Mobility Clinic. [Register here.](#)

Earn 14 CE Credits in Philadelphia!



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AOPA Mastering Medicare:
ESSENTIAL CODING & BILLING SEMINAR

MAINTAIN *Your Independence*

JULY 13-14, 2015
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Attend the Mastering Medicare seminar to enhance or refresh your coding and billing skills, learn new techniques and stay informed about important Medicare policy changes.



Donate to Secure a Prospering Future for O&P

During the 2015 National Assembly in San Antonio, Texas AOPA will be hosting the 8th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction. This exciting event provides attendees with a unique opportunity to mingle, network, learn about and taste a variety of wines, but most importantly raise awareness of and funds for AOPA's Government Relations outreach programs. Let's keep the tradition of success alive and make the 8th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction the best ever.

Please join the fun, the "good cause" and add to the continued success of the Wine Tasting & Auction by donating today!



Your special donations are what make this event unique and successful. Your attendance is what makes it fun! Your donation may be one of the gems of your cellar, jewelry, artwork, wine glasses, a bottle of your favorite spirit, cigars, craft beer, etc. We also have a team of personal shoppers who can locate that perfect item for you if you would prefer to make a monetary donation.

[Please consider donating today! The donation form is available here.](#)

Any questions about making a donation or the auction in general, contact Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org, or (571) 431-0854

Easy as 1, 2, 3: Enter Now!



Have you Heard the News That Mobility Saves?

A major new study has proven that prosthetic and orthotic care saves money for payers and improves lives for patients.



The Study

A major new study shows that Medicare pays more over the long term in most cases when Medicare patients are not provided with replacement lower limbs.

The study was commissioned by the Amputee Coalition and conducted by Dr. Allen Dobson, health economist and former director of the Office of Research at CMS. The study used Medicare data to compare patients with similar conditions who received prosthetics with patients who needed but did not receive prosthetics, over an 18 month period.

A CHANCE TO
WIN
\$500

The Results

Lower Limb Prosthetics

The prosthetic patients could experience better quality of life and increased independence compared to patients who did not receive the prosthesis at essentially no additional cost to Medicare or to the patient.

To learn more about the campaign, visit www.MobilitySaves.org.

Video and add your own experiences like Queen's story!

The Contest

Become part of an important public relations campaign that proves cost effectiveness for orthotics and prosthetics and perhaps win \$500 just by submitting your testimony.

Why Participate?

- Help patients obtain medically necessary devices
- Support the O&P profession
- Become part of a Major Public Relations Campaign
- Help spread the word that orthotic and prosthetic devices not only restore lives but are cost effective too!
- All entrants will receive a t-shirt
- One (1) Grand Prize Winner (\$500), one (1) Second Place Winner (\$250), and one (1) Third Place Winner (\$100) will be selected.
- All entries must be received by 11:59 PM EST on September 30, 2015

It's as easy as 1•2•3

1. Create your video testimony by using your smartphone or video camera.
2. Complete the online entry form at <http://bit.ly/MobilitySavesContest>
3. Upload your video testimony or email video from your smart phone.

Questions?

Contact us at at (571) 431-0876 or ymazur@AOPAnet.org



Make Sure the Insurance Companies and Health Care Providers Know This Too!

Get Involved and Submit Your Testimony to the Public Relations Campaign Spreading the Word.



Upload your 1-3 minute video or write your story about how your prosthetic has improved your life, like helping you get back to work, take care of your family, rejoin the community, etc.

Scan the QR code on left for the Testimony Contest Entry Form.

Don't Hesitate with this Deal

Order the 2015 Coding suite and save \$50 you'll receive everything you need to code like a pro!

2015 CODING PRO - O&P's comprehensive guide to Medicare codes, reimbursement and medical policies!

2015 ILLUSTRATED GUIDE - This easy-to-use reference manual provides an illustrated guide to the coding system in use for orthotics, prosthetics, and shoes, including the HCPCS code, the official Medicare descriptor and an illustration for each code.

2015 QUICK CODER - Stop searching through numerous pages to find a code! AOPA's redesigned Quick Coder provides a speedy reference to the HCPCS orthotic, shoe and prosthetic codes and modifiers. These laminated cards are durable, long-lasting and convenient to store.

Click [here](#) to check out the latest products. Ready to purchase? Go to our [Bookstore](#).

Subscribe to AOPA's Take....Where You Go When You Need to Know!

While AOPA has established lines of communication through traditional venues such as the *O&P Almanac* and the *SmartBrief* newsletter, *AOPA's Take* follows a different approach that focuses on specific issues, in a timely manner that is significant today, right now. Communications through AOPA's *Take* are immediate, keeping you informed of new information and developments as they happen.



AOPA has a long history of leading the way in ensuring that members of the O&P community have the tools to make sound decisions regarding the direction of their businesses. *AOPA's Take* continues this history by quickly becoming the best source for immediate access to breaking news that affects your O&P business.

AOPA's Take is available at no charge to all members of the O&P community and subscribing is simple. Go to www.aopastake.org and click on the subscribe button. Fill out a few fields and you're in!

Welcome to *AOPA's Take*.....Where you go when you need to know!

2015 AOPA National Assembly

The 98th Annual AOPA National Assembly will be held October 7-10 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. Located directly on San Antonio's famous Riverwalk, you will enjoy this beautiful, historic city. Whether you choose a leisurely stroll, or a ride on one of the riverboats, take time to see San Antonio's famous Riverwalk with the many shops, restaurants, nightlife, dining options, museum along the way.

With over a 100 abstracts submitted from the call for papers announcements—the scientific program is expected to be one of the best ever. Individual workgroups representing orthotics & prosthetics, Pedorthics, Business and Technical Education are busy organizing the education program with a goal of releasing the online version of the preliminary program mid-May.

Registration will open in early-May, but you can start planning ahead by making your hotel reservation at the Grand Hyatt by visiting <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/2015AOPA> or calling 888-421-1442.

To get the most of your trip to San Antonio, we have provided four easy steps to make the most of your trip to San Antonio and help you learn more about what interests you most.

Go to VisitSanAntonio.com to sign up for San Antonio's official newsletter and learn more about what interests you most. Whether it is the Arts, Music, Festivals, Family, Local Attractions or Shopping you will find a calendar of events and local information at VisitSanAntonio.com



1. Request a Free Visitors Guide — Explore arts and culture and learn about local attractions and things to do. [Request your guide](#) here.
2. [Download SAVE coupons](#) from the San Antonio Vacation Experience. Get exclusive deals and discounts.
3. Download a copy of the [River Walk map](#) to see all the great places you will want to visit within walking distance to the convention center.

Questions? Visit www.AOPAnet.org or call AOPA headquarters at (571) 431-0875.

Upcoming AOPA Events

- May 13, 2015 *The New Player In Town: Understand How the RAC Contract Works*
Webinar Conference
[Learn more or register online here](#)
- June 1, 2015 AOPA 2015 National Assembly in San Antonio
Preliminary Program Available; Early Bird Registration Opens
- June 10, 2015 *Stay out of Trouble: Building a Medicare-Approved Compliance Plan*
Webinar Conference
[Learn more or register online here](#)
- July 8, 2015 *Who's on First? Medicare as a Secondary Payer*
Webinar Conference
[Learn more or register online here](#)
- July 13-14, 2015 Essential Coding & Billing Techniques Seminar
Philadelphia, PA
[Learn more or register online here](#)