



AMERICAN ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC ASSOCIATION

In Case you Missed It:

MONTHLY RECAP

www.AOPAnet.org

April 2015

The President Signs SGR/ Doc Fix in Completion Reforming the SGR

As of April 1, physician payments for Medicare dropped 21% (however, given the lead time it takes for Medicare to change its payment course, those cuts were never implemented). On April 14, 2015, after dealing with several amendments that had been offered (including issues relating to abortion and limits on physical therapy payments), the Senate passed a bill reforming the SGR which the president signed by noon the next day. This system was perceived by physicians as Exhibit A of a broken Medicare reimbursement system. It has been the law for roughly 17 years, and required annual "doc fixes" by Congress to avoid physician fee reductions under Medicare. Read more [here](#).



OTS Orthoses Not Included as a Competitive Bidding Product Category

But No Guarantee about Future Competitive Bidding Inclusion

On April 21, 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the product categories and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) that will be included in the next round of DMEPOS Competitive Bidding, now being called Round 1 2017. While it appeared that off the shelf (OTS) orthoses were being considered for inclusion in competitive bidding, OTS orthoses were not among the eight product categories identified for inclusion in the Round 1 2017 competitive bidding program.

While this is certainly a positive development, it does not mean that OTS orthoses will not be included in competitive bidding at some point. The descriptor changes that were implemented in 2014 to clearly distinguish OTS orthoses from custom fitted orthoses certainly indicate the intent of CMS to eventually include OTS orthoses in competitive bidding at some point in the future. Click [here](#) for the full release.

AOPA Announces Testimonial Contest for *Mobility Saves*

Nationwide Contest for O&P

The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association (AOPA), unveiled a nationwide search and contest for patient testimonials regarding the value their custom orthotic and/or prosthetic care provides to their quality of life. The most compelling of these testimonials will be recognized with cash prizes, and will also be featured as part of a major public relations campaign directed at insurance companies, Medicare, federal and state regulators, and the general public.



The deadline for submissions is 11:59 PM (EST) on September 30, 2015. Testimony will be judged on its usability in an upcoming *Mobility Saves* public relations campaign and how the video shows and tells how a patient's orthotic and/or prosthetic device has changed their life; or how a patient's life would be affected without the device. After review, one Grand Prize Winner will be awarded Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), one Second Place Winner will be awarded Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250), and one Third Place Winner will be awarded One Hundred Dollars (\$100). For registration and further details click [here](#).



Medicare Orthotics & Prosthetics Improvement Act of 2015

S. 829 and HR 1530

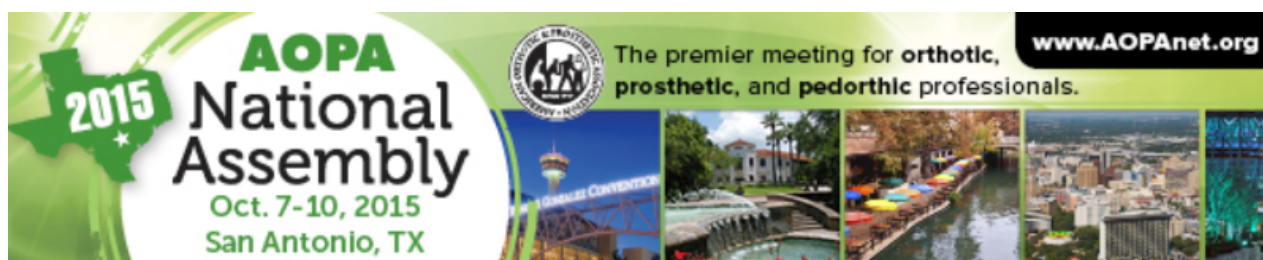
For the 114th session of Congress AOPA and the O&P Alliance pursued a sophisticated strategy to build upon the strength of previous incarnations and provisions of the Medicare O&P Improvement Act with the addition of some new provisions. Past iterations of the bill have been focused on CMS' failure for nearly 15 years to issue regulations under Section 427 of BIPA 2000, and it would further obligate CMS to implement the statutory directives approved in prior Congresses, namely: no payment to anyone who is not properly licensed in O&P licensure statute, no payment under Medicare to any provider who does not meet the law's certification requirements. Click [here](#) to send a letter to your Senators and Representatives asking them to sponsor the Medicare O&P Improvement Act of 2015 (S.829 and HR 1530).

The Medicare Audit Improvement Act of 2015

HR 1526

On March 23, 2015 Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) introduced the Medicare Audit Improvement Act of 2015 (HR 1526). This piece of legislation would require CMS to recognize the validity of the orthotist's and/or prosthetist's notes in determining the medical necessity of an item being provided to a Medicare beneficiary; and would officially and legislatively separate orthotics and prosthetics from durable medical equipment.

If you have not already, please be sure to visit [AOPAVotes](#) and send a letter to your Representatives asking them to co-sponsor the Medicare Audit Improvement Act of 2015 (HR 1526).



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