



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

August 4, 2015

AOPA Headlines:

[Take Action on DME MAC LCD Draft Policy](#)

[Register for the August 12 Webinar: OTS vs. Custom Fit - The True Story](#)

[AOPA Announces Thomas V. DiBello, CO as 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner](#)

[Symposium: Incorporate Evidence into Your Practice](#)

[Are you Subscribed to AOPA's Take? Its Where You Go When You Need to Know](#)

[BOC Subject Matter Experts Collaborate on Test Development](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

Take Action on DME MAC LCD Draft Policy

Over the last 2 weeks, AOPA shared with you the [DME MACs proposal](#) for substantial modifications to the Local Coverage Determination and Policy Article applicable to Medicare reimbursement for lower extremity prosthetics. AOPA reviewed the policy and provided a Comprehensive Analysis, accompanied by an Executive Summary (available [here](#)).

We now have a simple way for AOPA members AND prosthetic patients to take action at www.AOPAvotes.org. We have provided two prewritten letters – one from practitioners and one from patients to send the DME MACs. Patients can read the summary of how the policy changes would affect their care at www.MobilitySaves.org/blog.

Visit www.AOPAvotes.org to send a letter and share with all your patients. The comment period ends August 31, 2015 and you can also send your customized comments to DMAC Draft LCD Comments@anthem.com and make sure to reference “LCD Draft: Lower Limb Policy” in the subject line.

AOPA members should also watch their mailbox – AOPA is sending postcards for patients to submit comments.

**Take
Action!**

Register for the August Webinar: OTS vs. Custom Fit - The True Story

August 12, 2015, 1:00-2:00 PM EST

Ever wonder how and why the off-the-shelf codes for orthotics were created? Ever wonder who is allowed to provide off-the-shelf items and who can provide custom fit items? To answer these questions and many more, attend the August 12 webinar, OTS vs. Custom Fit: The True Story.

Topics for discussion will include the following:

- Learn the history of the formation of OTS codes
- Learn how OTS codes relate to competitive bidding now and in the future
- Learn about the latest requirements of OTS and custom fit items as they relate to the Medicare Medical Policies



AOPA members pay \$99 (nonmembers pay \$199), and any number of employees may participate on a given line. Attendees earn 1.5 continuing education credits by returning the provided quiz within 30 days and scoring at least 80 percent. [Register online](#). Contact Ryan Gleeson at rgleeson@AOPAnet.org or 571/431-0876 with questions.

AOPA Announces Thomas V. DiBello, CO as 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

AOPA will honor Thomas V. DiBello, CO with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2015 exceptional contributions to the orthotics and prosthetics profession.

Charles Dankmeyer, AOPA's President explained "Mr. DiBello is this year's honoree because of his relentless passion for patient care, O&P education and advancing the profession. Tom is a true visionary who has made a huge impact through his leadership at the Academy, AOPA, O&P educational programs, and his other volunteer work here and abroad."

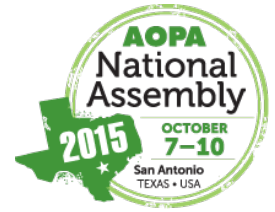
Mr. DiBello is the Gulf Coast Regional Director at Hanger Clinic, Honorary Adjunct Faculty at Texas Women's University, and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Baylor College of Medicine Masters Program on Orthotics and Prosthetics. He is past president of both AOPA and the Academy.



Mr. DiBello will be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly in San Antonio, TX, at the General Session on Saturday, October 9 at 7:30 am.


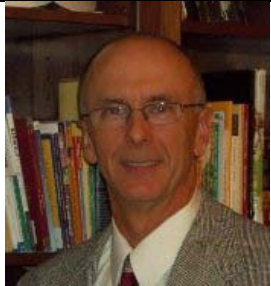
Symposium: Incorporate Evidence into Your Practice

O&P Symposium: Enhancing Your Clinical Practice by Applying a Combined Approach of Evidence & Experience ~ Friday, Oct 9 @ 2:00 PM



Recent advances in O&P technology and the therapeutic interventions have great potential to improve the function for individuals who have experienced lower extremity trauma. These advances have wide ranging implications for prosthetists/orthotists, physical therapists and physicians. The following topics will be addressed in the context of completed and ongoing research from the Center for the Intrepid at San Antonio Military Medical Center including the experience of caring for injured service members.

- Rapid translation of research findings from the Military Performance Laboratory into the clinical care of patients.
- Benefits and limitations of the latest prosthetic devices, and how device choice can impact an individual's ability to perform specific activities.
- Compare and contrast how conventional carbon fiber feet, powered prosthetic devices and dynamic carbon fiber ankle foot orthoses differ in the way they restore limb function.
- Costs and benefits of implementing objective outcome assessments as part of clinical care.
- Importance of device specific physical therapy training on resulting outcomes for advanced orthotics like the Intrepid Dynamic Exoskeletal Orthosis.

	<p>Jason M. Wilken, PhD, PT, is the Director of the Military Performance Laboratory at the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center and adjunct faculty at the U.S. Army-Baylor University Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy. He earned his master's degree in Physical Therapy and PhD in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Iowa. As Director of the Military Performance Laboratory, he directs an active research mission focused on maximizing physical function in individuals who have been injured during military service. Current research efforts include assessment of advanced orthotic and prosthetic technologies for individuals who have experienced severe extremity trauma, development of virtual reality based environments for the assessment and treatment of cognitive and physical impairments, and outcome assessments to guide clinical practice.</p>
	<p>John R. Ferguson, L/CPO, is the Chief Prosthetist at the Center for the Intrepid at San Antonio Military Medical Center. He received his prosthetic-orthotic training at UCLA and Northwestern University. He currently is adjunct faculty for the Army Baylor Doctoral Physical Therapy Program and the UT Southwestern Prosthetics-Orthotics Program. He has lectured extensively on all topics in lower limb prosthetics, has many peer reviewed articles, and has authored multiple book chapters. While at Brooke Army Medical Center, he and his staff continue to treat the most complex patients seen as a result of battlefield injury.</p>

[Clinical Education Program](#)
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[Register online](#)

[General Information](#)
[Hotel Reservations](#)

Are you Subscribed to *AOPA's Take*? Its Where You Go When You Need to Know

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 as the best source for immediate access to breaking news that affects your O&P business. 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 will focus on specific issues, in a timely manner that are significant today, right now. Communication through *AOPA's Take* is immediate, keeping you informed of new information and developments as they happen.



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!

BOC Subject Matter Experts Collaborate on Test Development

As part of its commitment to regularly evaluate and improve its certification examinations, the Board of Certification/Accreditation (BOC) recently convened a group of subject matter experts (SMEs) to review and update the content for all of BOC's exams. The SMEs analyzed and revised test questions, working in exam-specific groups. Exam content was validated by referencing current student textbooks.

The certification examination is a critical step in the credentialing process to assess competency. Certificants from the two major national orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) credentialing organizations, educators, and other medical professionals comprised this group of SMEs. The SMEs were trained in the exam development process in an exam question-writing workshop at the beginning of the meeting. This workshop included instruction on exam question structure, rules for composing multiple-choice answers, the need for a specific citation for a correct answer, and the importance of security.

BOC's Chief Credentialing Officer, Wendy Miller, BOCO, LO, CDME, and Credentialing Manager Michelle Yoon organized and actively participated in this meeting. Dr. Steve Nettles, Program Director and former Senior Vice President of Psychometrics at Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), a nationally renowned Psychometrician, hosted the gathering at AMP's headquarters in Olathe, Kansas. He and his expert test development team facilitated the process.

"BOC complies with nationally recognized psychometric standards to assess the competency of our candidates. The dynamic nature of the O&P and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) fields necessitates periodic reviews of our examinations," noted Miller. "The results of meetings like these are exams that are engineered to precisely gauge each candidate's knowledge in his or her field."

Upcoming AOPA Events

- August 12 *OTS vs. Custom Fit: The True Story*
Webinar Conference
[Learn more or register online here](#)
- September 9 *Prior Authorization, How Does it Work*
Webinar Conference
[Learn more or register online here](#)
- Oct 7-10, 2015 *AOPA 2015 National Assembly*
San Antonio, TX
[Learn more or register online here](#)