



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

## **AOPA In Advance SmartBrief**

*Breaking News*

January 21, 2016

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### **CGS to be the New DME MAC for Jurisdiction B**

As reported in earlier editions of AOPA's SmartBrief, CGS, the current Jurisdiction C DME MAC contractor, was awarded the Jurisdiction B contract on September 3, 2015. However, National Government Services (NGS), the current Jurisdiction B DME MAC, filed a formal protest causing CMS to halt the transition pending a review of the contract award by the Government Accountability office (GAO).

The GAO upheld the contract award and CGS will be the new DME MAC for Jurisdiction B beginning June 27, 2016. NGS will continue to serve as the Jurisdiction B contractor until the June 27 deadline; and any questions about current claims/audits should still be directed and handled by NGS until June 24, 2016.

CGS has created a help desk; to contact the help desk dial 877-363-8895, to answer any questions suppliers may have about the transition or you may visit [www.cgsmedicare.com/jb](http://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb).

Questions regarding this issue may be directed to Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@aopanet.org](mailto:jmcternan@aopanet.org) or Devon Bernard at [dbernard@aopanet.org](mailto:dbernard@aopanet.org)

## Register for the 2016 Webinar Series and Save

Keep learning all year long by registering for the entire series and get 2 FREE webinars!

Just \$990 members/\$1990 non-members and the entire office staff can participate with one registration. [Register or learn more now.](#)

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| January 13<br>(Recorded version) | Pre-Payment Reviews: What You Need to Know to Pass      |
| February 10                      | SNF Billing: Beyond the Basics (The Ins and Outs)       |
| March 9                          | Shift the Liability: The Proper Use of the ABN Form     |
| April 13                         | Understanding Shoes, Mastectomy, & Other Policies       |
| May 11                           | When Things Go Wrong: Making Lemonade out of Lemons     |
| June 8                           | Physician Documentation: How to Get It & How to Use It  |
| July 13                          | Strategies and Levels: How to Play the Appeals Game     |
| August 10                        | The Supplier Standards: Are You Compliant?              |
| September 14                     | Fill in the Blanks: Know Your Forms                     |
| October 12                       | KO Policy: The ABCs of the LCD and PA                   |
| November 9                       | Don't Miss Out: Are You Billing For Everything You Can? |
| December 14                      | New Codes and What Lies Ahead for 2017                  |

## Register for the 2016 Webinar Series

Don't miss the next webinar

### SNF Billing: Beyond the Basics (The Ins and Outs)

**Cost**

\$99 for AOPA

Members/

\$199 for Non-Members

(Members use promo code  
'member')

**Date**

Wed, February 10

1:00 PM EST

Reimbursement for Skilled Nursing Facilities is complex. Make sure you know who and how to bill so you can get PAID. Earn 1.5 credits for the February 10 webinar.

- Learn how to get paid when a patient is in an SNF
- Learn all the scenarios of when you bill the SNF and when you bill Medicare
- Learn what the 100 day benefit period really entails
- Examine SNF Consolidated Billing in detail

**REGISTER**

## Earn CE Credits with the January 2016 *O&P Almanac*



### **Muscular Care for IBM Patients | Page 20**

The introduction of advanced, lightweight materials to lower-limb orthotics has allowed clinicians to find new ways to improve the quality of life for muscular-compromised patients. [Read More](#)

### **President Signs Omnibus Budget Bill | Page 16**

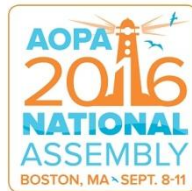
*O&P Almanac* breaks down several recent legislative and regulatory issues affecting the O&P community. [Read More](#)

### **Consumerism and Change | Page 28**

Throughout the health-care sector, patients are demanding more control over their treatment decisions. [Read More](#)

Read the [Compliance Corner](#) and [Reimbursement Page](#) – Earn 4 CE's  
Take the Reimbursement [Quiz here](#) and the Compliance Corner [Quiz here](#).

## Present at the 2016 National Assembly in Boston



### **AOPA National Assembly and New England Chapter Meeting John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center in Boston, MA September 8-11, 2016**

The 2016 Planning Committee is seeking high-quality education presentations for the combined 99<sup>th</sup> Annual AOPA National Assembly and New England Academy Chapter Meeting to be held September 8-11, 2016 at the Hynes Convention Center in downtown Boston, MA.

Your submissions, based on sound research and strong empirical data, will set the stage for a broad curriculum of highly valued clinical and scientific offerings at the 2016 National Meeting. All free paper abstracts for the 2016 AOPA National Assembly must be submitted electronically. Abstracts submitted by e-mail or fax will not be considered. All abstracts will be considered for both podium and poster presentations. The review committee will grade each submission via a blind review process, based on the criteria below and reach a decision regarding acceptance of abstracts.

- Relevance, level of interest in topic
- Quality of Scientific Content
- Quality of Clinical Content

**Submission Deadline** – The submission deadline is March 31, 2016.

**Clinical Free Papers** – Those wishing to present an Orthotic, Prosthetic or Pedorthic Free Paper should [submit here](#) to have their paper considered for presentation at the 2016 National Meeting. The top scoring papers will compete for the prestigious Thranhardt Award.

**Technician Program** – If you would like your Technical presentation considered for the Technical Education Track, please [submit your paper here](#). The planning committee is specifically looking for fabrication techniques to be presented in the form of a “cooking show” style demonstration. Please contact us with questions [assembly@aopanet.org](mailto:assembly@aopanet.org) or 571-431-0808.

**Business Education Program** – Please [submit your business education paper here](#). The top papers will be considered for the prestigious Sam E. Hamontree, CP (E) Business Education Award.

**Symposia** – If you are interested in organizing a Symposium, then please [submit here](#). Scientific Symposia should present thematically related research addressing significant problems or controversies in Orthotics, Prosthetics or Pedorthics. The symposium should bring together one or more of the world's leading researchers to present current developments and planned research directions. Where appropriate, symposium should present differing points of view on a particular topic.

**Student/Resident Poster Submission:** AOPA invites students and residents to present orthotic/prosthetic research findings or a particular case study via a poster presentation. When students and/or residents submit an abstract for a poster, they are entered to win one of two prestigious awards--The Otto and Lucille Becker Award will be presented for the best orthotic abstract submitted and the Edwin and Kathryn Arbogast Award for the best prosthetic abstract submitted by a qualifying student or resident.

- ✓ The poster must be exhibited and presented at the AOPA National Assembly for the award recipient to receive the prize. The winners of the two scientific poster awards will be published in the O&P Almanac.
- ✓ The winners will receive a \$500 cash award, registration to the show, coach-class airfare to the National Assembly and three nights hotel. To qualify to present a poster in this category and eligible for consideration for this award, the main author must be a student (baccalaureate or masters level) or a resident at a qualified patient care facility.
- ✓ Abstracts will not be considered for either award if they have been previously presented, published, or are currently submitted with pending decision on acceptance elsewhere.
- ✓ These awards have been made possible by a special endowment by Becker Orthopedic and WillowWood.
- ✓ The Award Winner's associated school will also be honored with an award.

Please [submit your poster paper here](#).

Questions? Contact Tina Moran at [tmoran@aopanet.org](mailto:tmoran@aopanet.org) or (571) 431-0808.

Contact AOPA Headquarters at (571) 431-0876 or [assembly@AOPAnet.org](mailto:assembly@AOPAnet.org) with questions about the submission process or the National Assembly in general.

## Amputee Coalition Announces Board of Directors for 2016



**amputee  
coalition**

On January 20th, 2016, The Amputee Coalition announced its 2016 officers and board of directors. Serving in 2016 are: Jack Richmond\* of Cleveland, Tennessee as chairman of the board; Michael Estrada\* of Statesville, North Carolina is chair-elect; John “Mo” Kenney\* of Lexington, Kentucky is vice-chair; Dennis Fields\* of Vienna, Virginia is treasurer; David Sanders of Washington, D.C. is secretary; Dan Berschinski\* of Stanford, California is immediate past chair. Each officer will serve for a one-year term.

## Save the Date for the 2016 Policy Forum



The Policy Forum dates have been announced for 2016. This year the Policy Forum will be held on Tuesday, April 26 to Thursday, April 28. Stay tuned for more details to follow concerning the 2016 Policy Forum. The Policy Forum creates a venue for the O&P community to vocalize their concerns and needs with their local policy-makers in Washington, DC.

## Mobility Saves Page Has Over 10,000 Likes!

**10,000**  **LIKES**  
**ON FACEBOOK**

The [Mobility Saves page on Facebook](#) now has more than 10,000 likes on Facebook! Come check Mobility Saves out on social media to get your updates on the ways O&P care saves lives and money, and see lives improved by orthotics and prosthetics. We are also on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and there is now a Google Plus Community –request your invite by emailing [community@mobilitysaves.org](mailto:community@mobilitysaves.org). And don't forget to visit the website where it all started, [www.MobilitySaves.org](http://www.MobilitySaves.org).

## Upcoming AOPA Events

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| January 25-26, 2016 | Mastering Medicare: Essential Coding & Billing Techniques Seminar<br>Tampa, FL<br><a href="#">Learn more or register here</a>  |
| February 10, 2016   | <i>SNF Billing: Beyond the Basics (The Ins and Outs)</i><br>AOPA Webinar<br><a href="#">Learn more or register here</a>        |
| March 9, 2016       | <i>Shift the Liability: The Proper Use of the ABN Form Pass</i><br>AOPA Webinar<br><a href="#">Learn more or register here</a> |