



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

February 2, 2016

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Update on DME MAC Contractor Transition

Following up on the previous Smart Brief announcement, regarding upcoming changes in the contractors who will serve as the Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs), AOPA has learned about additional details regarding the transition of DME MAC Jurisdiction A and Jurisdiction B responsibilities.

The denial of the NGS protest of the Jurisdiction B DME MAC contract award clears the way for CGS to begin transition work in preparation for its June 27, 2016 start date as the new Jurisdiction B DME MAC. CGS has announced that as of June 27, 2016, Jurisdiction B claims will be processed out of CGS existing operations center in Nashville, TN. CGS has announced that it intends to hire at least 150 staff members in Nashville to ensure that they have adequate capability to begin processing claims as of June 27th. In addition, CGS has announced that Doran Edwards, MD will serve as the Jurisdiction B DME MAC Medical Director once CGS takes over responsibility for Jurisdiction B. Dr. Edwards currently serves as an associate medical director for the Jurisdiction C DME MAC and has previously served as the medical director of the SADMERC. CGS has established a transition website where providers may learn more about the transition process. The transition website may be accessed by clicking on the following link: www.cgsmedicare.com/jb

In other news, Medicare NHIC has elected not to file a protest of the recent award of the Jurisdiction A DME MAC contract to Noridian Health Services, LLC, the current contractor responsible for Jurisdiction D and the PDAC. While this decision means that transition activities will begin shortly, Noridian has made no announcements as of yet. AOPA will continue to follow developments in both of these transitions closely.

Questions regarding this issue may be directed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@aopanet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@aopanet.org

AOPA Education for Prior Authorization

Please join AOPA in an AOPA Member Exclusive introductory webinar, concerning Prior Authorization, to be held on February 18th & 25th at 1PM EST. AOPA members get to attend for free! Take this opportunity to learn from the experts about what Prior Authorization means for your business and how it will impact you as a practitioner. Register [here](#) for February 18 and register [here](#) to attend on February 25th.

A second webinar, *Prior Authorization Preparation*," is scheduled to be held on March 24th and 31st at 1PM EST, available for AOPA member and non-member viewing. This webinar will feature any additional updates on Prior Authorization. These webinars in March are \$99 for AOPA members and \$199 for non-members. Register [here](#) for March 24th and register [here](#) to attend on March 31st. We hope to see you there!

WillowWood Receives Ohio Department of Health Award

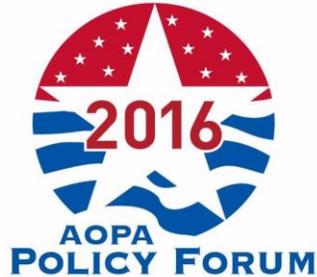
WillowWood® The Ohio State Department of Health and the Healthy Ohio Business Council recently honored WillowWood with a Healthy Ohio Healthy Worksite Award for its commitment to creating a healthy work environment. This was the first year that WillowWood applied for the annual state recognition award.

One of 68 Ohio employers to receive the state award, WillowWood was recognized at the bronze level during a luncheon at the Health Action Council's 2016 Annual Conference on January 20. The Healthy Ohio Healthy Worksite Award recognizes employers that demonstrate a commitment to employee health through comprehensive worksite health promotion and wellness programs.

Order the 2016 Quick Coder Set Now Available



Order your 2016 Quick Coder Set Today. 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. The 2016 Quick Coders sell for \$30 to AOPA members and \$80 for non-members. Order the [2016 Quick Coder here](#).



**Register Now for the 2016 Policy Forum and
O&P Legislation-Writing Congress!**
New Format - New Program

Join us April 26 -27, 2016 in Washington, DC for a new Policy Forum experience. Former Senator Robert Kerrey will preside over a special session to write a simple one-to-two page *piece of legislation* to take to the Hill to educate your lawmakers. This is your opportunity to make your voice heard and participate in a landmark event.

[Learn more.](#)

Why should you attend? Educate lawmakers on the issues that are important to YOU:

- 1. Participate in the 2016 O&P Legislation-Writing Congress - make your voice heard.*
- 2. Ensure O&P has fair representation in any O&P LCDs*
- 3. Make sure Prior Authorization is administered fairly*
- 4. Help Curb RAC audit practices that harm honest providers and don't prevent fraud*
- 5. Prevent the Expansion of Off-the-Shelf Orthoses and Competitive Bidding*
- 6. Showcase the value of O&P professionals as health providers by simply sharing a personal story how O&P restores lives and saves money.*

April 26-27, 2016
Washington, DC
Washington Marriott at Metro Center
[Learn more and register now.](#)

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 (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

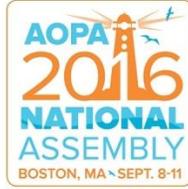
Wed, February 10

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



**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 99th 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 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 or (571) 431-0808.

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

Upcoming AOPA Events

February 10, 2016 *SNF Billing: Beyond the Basics (The Ins and Outs)*
AOPA Webinar
[Learn more or register here](#)

February 18 & 25, 2016 *Introduction to Prior Authorization*
AOPA Webinar
Register for the [18th](#) or [25th](#)

March 9, 2016 *Shift the Liability: The Proper Use of the ABN Form Pass*
AOPA Webinar
[Learn more or register here](#)