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AOPA Submits Comments to the FDA on 3-D Printing

AOPA's Comments Applied only to Additive Manufacturing of O&P Components

AOPA has submitted comments on the publication, *"Technical Considerations for Additive Manufactured Devices: Draft Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff"* which was published in the Federal Register on May 10, 2016. AOPA submitted comments pertaining to additive manufacturing in the design and fabrication of external prosthetic components and orthotic devices, specifically through the use of 3-D printing. The comments submitted reflect that AOPA does not believe that either additional or lesser regulatory burdens should be placed on manufacturers of prosthetic components and orthotic devices solely based on the decision to utilize an additive manufacturing process into their fabrication protocols. [Read more.](#)

AOPA National Assembly Keynotes Announced

Two Powerful Speakers at the Assembly, September 8-11 in Boston, MA



David Gergen is a senior political analyst for CNN and has served as an adviser to four US presidents of both parties. He is a professor of public service at the Harvard Kennedy School and the director of its Center for Public Leadership. In 2000, he published the best-selling book, *Eyewitness to Power: The Essence of Leadership, Nixon to Clinton*. [Read more.](#)



Senator Bob Kerrey served in the Senate for 22 years, and one term as Governor of Nebraska. He fought in Vietnam as a Navy SEAL and was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in combat during a battle in which he became a below-knee amputee. He has been a champion for O&P, weighing in on the 2015 draft Lower Limb LCD and participating in AOPA's 2016 Policy Forum. [Read more.](#)

Congress Being Urged by Some in "Big Medicine" and CMS, to Downgrade or Eliminate Stark Laws/Rules That Preclude Self-Referral

Stark Laws Were Created to Help Control Conflicts of Interest in Medical Care

Earlier this year, Medicare implemented a new policy on Comprehensive Care of Joint Replacement. While positioned as a pilot test, all hospitals were forced to be involved. Under this new program, hospitals are given financial incentives to reduce the total cost for hip and knee replacements. If hospitals succeed in driving down the total costs, the hospitals keep a portion of the savings. If the hospitals fail to drive down the total costs, the hospitals will have to pay a portion of the tab. If you are a Medicare patient, do you think this means you will receive the best quality of care or the cheapest? If you said "cheapest", keep reading to find out how Stark Rules could protect patients from these "risk-sharing" deals. [Read more.](#)

\$30 Off the Illustrated Guide

Celebrating 30 Year Anniversary

We are celebrating 30 years of the easy-to-use O&P reference manual, AOPA's Illustrated Guide, with a \$30 off sale! The guide covers orthotics, prosthetics and shoes, and includes the

HCPCS code for the official Medicare descriptor and an illustration for each code. And now it is \$30 off until August 30! [Shop now.](#)



Survey on Research Priorities in O&P

BCIT is conducting a survey, which should take 10-15 minutes to complete, on research topics to benefit practitioners and those who use prosthetic and orthotic devices. Everyone who participates can have the results by email once the survey is completed.

Project Title: Prosthetics and Orthotics: Feedback on Research Priorities.

Principal Investigator: Silvia Raschke, PhD (BC Institute of Technology, Canada)

Purpose: To establish a research strategy and platform which identifies needs and priorities in the field of Prosthetics and Orthotics.

To examine people's perceptions regarding what research topics would be of most benefit to clinical practitioners and those who use prosthetic and orthotic devices. We are interested in your perspective, and you are invited to participate in this research study by completing an online questionnaire (link provided below).

You can take part if you are fluent in English and have experience or exposure to prosthetics and orthotics. [Take the survey.](#)

American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association,
330 John Carlyle St., Ste 200, Alexandria, VA 22314

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