



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

July 19, 2016

AOPA Headlines:

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Take Action on the VA Coding Changes

The Department of Veterans Affairs has unilaterally decided to assign reimbursement amounts to prosthetic feet that are not consistent with the Center for Medicare Services. As a result of their action, veterans have not had the same access to certain prosthetic feet that those with Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance receive.

Five Congressional Representatives - Reps. Kyrsten Simena (D-AZ), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Walter Jones (R-NC), Matt Salmon (R-AZ), David Schweiker (R-AZ) sent a letter to Robert McDonald, Secretary of the Department of Veterans requesting that the VA explain the process they used to change the coding determination and justify why it is not the same as Medicare's. [Read the letter.](#)

[Send a letter to Congress requesting that the VA follow CMS procedures.](#)

Save \$30 off the 2016 Illustrated Guide

Let's celebrate 30 years of the easy-to-use reference manual, AOPA's Illustrated Guide, with a \$30 off sale! The guide covers orthotics, prosthetics, and shoes, and includes the official HCPCS for the

official Medicare descriptor and an illustration of each code. And now it is \$30 off until August 30th! [Click here](#) to purchase your Illustrated Guide today!

AOPA Offers RAC Audit Preparation Webinar

AOPA is pleased to announce that it will be offering one webinar on the subject of the renewed RAC audits. The webinar will be open to the public with a registration fee of \$99 for AOPA members and \$199 for non-AOPA members, and will focus on the details of preparing your practice to do the things today that will protect you from RAC audits when they are received.

Don't Let the RACs Catch You Unprepared: Working Today to Protect Tomorrow; \$99 Members; \$199 Non-Members, July 21st, 1:00 EDT.

Questions regarding these webinars may be addressed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@aopanet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@aopanet.org.

AOPA Announces Winners of 2016-2017 Pilot Grant Awards

The Center for O&P Learning (COPL), in conjunction with AOPA, solicited proposals to fund O&P research with grants of up to \$15,000. A record 27 proposals were received in response to the request for proposals, and the board took the extraordinary step of choosing seven projects to fund, instead of the usual 3-4 projects. The previous years' projects, dating back to 2009, are available for review on [AOPA's website](#).

The 2016-2017 Grant Winners are as follows:

- Walter Lee Childers, PhD, MSPO, CP, *Stumble recovery mechanisms utilized by people using different types of microprocessor knees*
- Kenton Kaufman, PhD, PE, *Risk factors and costs associated with secondary health conditions of individuals with above-knee amputations*
- Staci Shearin, PT, NCS, *Impact of Carbon Fibre AFOs on gait and resulting changes in quality of life across time in persons with PD*
- Nicholas LeCursi, CO, *Relative influence of orthotic support features within an open frame AFO versus a total contact AFO on function, endurance, and activity level in patients with spastic equinovarus secondary to chronic stroke*
- Ignacio Gaunaurd, PhD, MSPT, *Utilizing an innovative Timed-Up-and-Go test for fall risk detection in people with unilateral lower limb loss*
- Sai Vikas Yalla, PhD, *Activity Based Quality Life Assessment to Compare Prostheses with and without Microcontrollers in Transfemoral Amputees*
- Shane Wurdeman, PhD, MSPO, CP, FAAOP, *Improved mobility with lower limb prostheses: the establishment of a national multi-site outcomes database*

AOPA Announces Thomas Watson, CP as 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



Congrats to Tom Watson, CP of Tom Watson's P&O Lab! He is the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award winner, to be honored at [#aopa2016](#) National Assembly. He has run a successful business, been mayor of Owensboro, KY, past president of AOPA, volunteer for numerous boards and organizations, and effective grassroots advocate for O&P. An easy choice for this year's award!

Read more at <http://www.aopanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Press-Release-2016-Lifetime-Award.pdf>

Earn CE Credits by Reading the July *O&P Almanac*

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[O&P Almanac Media Kit](#)



On the Right Foot

From self-standing practices to partnerships with other health-care providers, pedorthists work in a variety of business settings. With some CPeds choosing to offer retail options and others focusing on clinical practices, no two pedorthic businesses are alike. But today's pedorthists share a strong sense of commitment to their patients, and continue to explore new patient populations who may benefit from their services. [Read More](#)

Sign Up to Exhibit at the 2016 National Assembly

AOPA is still accepting exhibit applications for the 2016 AOPA National Assembly, which takes place in Boston, MA on September 8-11, 2016. Sign up by **Friday, July 29th** to be included in the show's *Final Program of Activities* and the *Assembly Mobile APP*. If you are looking to introduce your products and services to an expanded group of decision makers—this is the meeting for you! The National Assembly is the country's oldest and largest meeting for the orthotics, prosthetics and pedorthics profession. [Click here](#) for more information.

Contact Kelly O'Neill koneill@aopanet.org or (571) 431-0852 with any questions.

2016 Thranhardt Golf Tournament

Join us at 2016 Thranhardt Golf Tournament held in conjunction with the 99th Annual AOPA National Assembly at the Robert R. Lynch Municipal Golf Club at Putterham.



Hit the links and network with top leaders in O&P while attending the 2016 AOPA National Assembly. We've scheduled the tournament for the afternoon of Wed., Sept. 7 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM so you can fly in on Wednesday morning, catch the luxury motor coach to the tournament at noon and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of golf with your O&P colleagues, customers, and family.

Brookline Golf Course is located in the Putterham neighborhood of Brookline, MA which was home to the legendary Francis Ouimet, who as an amateur, won the 1913 U.S. Open which was played at The Country Club of Brookline. The course is a short 6 miles from the Hynes Convention Center.

At over 6,300 yards, Brookline Golf Course is a great test for all players. With multiple sets of tees, it suits the beginner very well and will always give the accomplished player a challenge.

AOPA's Capitol Connection and OPAF have once again joined forces to co-sponsor this great event to benefit the inspiring efforts of OPAF and the legislative, research and education efforts of the Capitol Connection to further the O&P policy agenda.

Green fees, cart fees, pre-round range balls, transportation and an awards ceremony are all included.

Visit our [sponsorship form online](#) to book your sponsorship opportunities today. Book your [tickets online](#) TODAY.

Learn More About the Prevalence and Impact of Pain in Upper Limb Amputees



[About AOPA](#)

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[Exhibit](#)

Featured Programming – The Prevalence and Impact of Pain in Upper Limb Amputees

Individuals with upper limb amputations and limb deficiencies experience pain in many forms: phantom pain, residual limb pain, and pain associated with overuse syndromes on the sound side. This course will present available literature on the types and prevalence of pain and the impact on the patient's function and well-being. An occupational therapist will address therapy treatment modalities used to manage these different types of pain. This information will be supplemented by

the user's perspective, taken from both personal experience and feedback collected from an online community of individuals with upper limb deficiency.

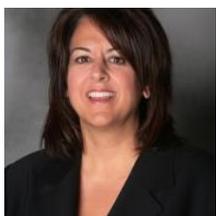
Meet the Panel:



Mike Benning is the Marketing Manager for Upper Limb Prosthetics at Hanger Clinic. Mike lost his arm to cancer at the age of 14 and has worn a variety of prosthetics for over 37 years. He represented the United States in Alpine Skiing at the 1984 Paralympic Winter Games, won two One Arm World Golf Championships and recently, he represented North America on the 2008, 2010, and 2012 One-Arm Ryder Cup golf teams.



Phillip Stevens, Med, CPO is a practice manager and upper extremity specialist with Hanger Clinic. He co-edited the 4th Edition of the Atlas of Amputations and Limb Deficiencies and sits on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Prosthetics and Orthotics. He is a graduate of the University of Washington's Prosthetic and Orthotic Program and Past President of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists.



Joyce Tyler, OT, CHT, works at a level 1 trauma center specializing in the treatment of upper extremity trauma, amputation, and burns. She has been involved in research developing sensory feedback and advanced EMG control of upper limb prosthetics at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and the Cleveland FES Center. Joyce joined Hanger Clinic's Upper Limb Program as a clinical therapy specialist in 2013.

Learn More or Register Now

Join the Coding

& Billing

Experts in Las Vegas!

The AOPA Coding & Billing Experts are Coming to Las Vegas!

AOPA's next Coding & Billing Seminar will be in Las Vegas! Don't miss this opportunity to get the most up-to-date information to advance your O&P practitioners' and billing staff's coding knowledge.

Join your Colleagues November 14-15 in Las Vegas!

At this seminar you will:

- Receive up-to-date information on Prior Authorization and other Hot Topics
- Ensure your Proof of Delivery meets Medicare Requirements
- Learn how to assess risk areas in your practice



- Learn successful appeal strategies and hints to avoid claim denials
- Practice coding complex devices, including repairs and adjustment
- Attend break-out sessions for practitioners and office staff
- Earn 14 CEs

Where else can you get two jam-packed days of reliable, valuable O&P coding and billing information? [Learn more.](#)

[Register Now](#)

Upcoming AOPA Events

July 21, 2016	<i>Don't Let the RACs Catch You Unprepared</i> AOPA Webinar Learn more and register here
August 1, 2016	<i>Early Bird Registration Deadline for 2016 National Assembly</i> Boston, MA Learn more and register here
August 10, 2016	<i>Supplier Standards: Are You Compliant?</i> AOPA Webinar Learn more and register here