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## OIG Releases 2017 Work Plan

Two Longstanding Objectives in Orthotics Remain; No Other/New Prosthetic or Orthotic Items Listed

Each year, the HHS Inspector General releases its annual Work Plan, which lists the topics where the OIG believes there are significant potential items of fraud or other inappropriate or inefficient operations by HHS (including CMS and Medicare) that are costing the government money. This week, the OIG 2017 Work Plan was released.

There are no NEW O&P items listed on the new OIG 2017 Work Plan. However, there are two significant orthotic items for scrutiny that have been part of the OIG Work Plan for the past few years still remain. The following items continue to be highlighted by the OIG: *Orthotic Braces - Reasonableness of Medicare Payments Compared to Amounts Paid by Other Payers*; *Orthotic Braces - Supplier Compliance with Payment Requirements*. [Read AOPA's full write-up and the OIG Work Plan.](#)

## CMS Releases 2017 HCPCS Codes

Few Minor Changes

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the new HCPCS codes for 2017, and there were only a few minor changes.

The biggest change was the deletion of the temporary K codes (K0901 & K0902), which became effective on October 1, 2014, to describe off the shelf (OTS) versions of custom fitted knee orthoses described by L1843 and L1845, and their subsequent crosswalk to new permanent L codes (L1851 & L1852). [Read the complete breakdown.](#)

## Call for Papers for AOPA World Congress

Clinical, Business, Technical and Symposia Presenters Wanted

AOPA is seeking high-quality educational and research content for the Second O&P World Congress to be held September 6-9, 2017 at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

Your submissions will set the stage for a broad curriculum of high-value clinical and scientific offerings at the 2017 World Congress. All abstracts will be considered for both podium and poster presentations. Receive a complimentary one-day registration (or 50% credit towards a full conference registration) when your free paper is selected as a podium presentation. Those presenting more than one Podium Free Paper will receive a Full Complimentary registration. Poster Presenters will receive a 40% discount off their full conference registration. [Learn more about presenting.](#)

## AOPA's Post-Election Analysis

GOP Runs the Table, Trump Wins Presidency, and Maintains Control of Both Senate and House

In an election unprecedented in American history, Donald Trump defied the polls, conventional wisdom and notions of political correctness for a convincing win of the Presidency in the Electoral College, despite a roughly break even in the popular vote. What does it mean for orthotics and prosthetics, and health care more generally?

It is clear that the Affordable Care Act is likely to be repealed. There will need to be a replacement, and it may have several consistent features, for example, no exclusions for pre-existing conditions

and maintaining kids on parents' coverage until age 26. But expect the medical device excise tax to be history, as will major subsidies, and any tax on uninsureds. Medicaid will likely be addressed by block grants to states to use as they deem appropriate. Similarly, expect a move toward vouchers in Medicare. We'll have a new CMS leadership, and large amounts set aside for innovations, ACOs and such may go away. [Keep reading](#).

## Join the Coding & Billing Experts in Nashville

Discounts for AOPA members

Join AOPA January 23-24 in Nashville to advance your O&P practitioners' and billing staff's coding knowledge. Join AOPA for this 2 day event, where you will earn 14 CEs and get up-to-date on all the hot topics. [Learn more and register](#).



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