



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

January 3, 2017

AOPA Headlines:

[Academy Announces New Executive Director](#)

[AOPA Submits Comments on AHRQ Systematic Review of Lower Limb Protheses](#)

[AOPA Celebrates 100 Years in 2017 - Become a Part of the Story](#)

[AOPA's In-Demand Coding & Billing Manuals are for Sale](#)

[The First AOPA Coding & Billing Seminar of 2017 is in Nashville, TN!](#)

[Register for AOPA's 2017 Webinar Series](#)

[Call for Papers for the AOPA 2nd World Congress in Las Vegas](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Academy Announces New Executive Director



The American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (the Academy) is pleased to announce the appointment of Chellie Hollis Blondes as its new executive director. Blondes has more than 25 years of management experience in the nonprofit healthcare industry.

Blondes served as deputy executive director of the Academy for 15 years and as interim executive director for the past seven months. Chellie championed innovative O&P continuing education offerings through the Academy's Annual Meeting and through the creation, launch, and growth of the Academy's Paul E. Leimkuehler Online Learning Center. She has experience with legislative affairs and is known for fostering collaborative initiatives within the O&P profession.

"I am honored to serve the O&P profession as executive director of the Academy, an organization to which I am devoted. O&P professionals work hard every day to enable individuals in need of care to lead full and more productive lives. It amazes me to see how far we have come as a profession, and I am excited about what the future holds," said Blondes.

AOPA Submits Comments on AHRQ Systematic Review of Lower Limb Prostheses

On December 1, 2016 the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality announced that it was soliciting public comment on the key questions that would be used in its previously announced systematic review of clinical literature relative to lower limb prostheses. Comments were to be submitted no later than 11:59 pm on December 20, 2016.

AOPA, with significant input from its Medical Advisory Board and its expert steering committee, as well as AOPA Board members, developed and submitted detailed comments that addressed both the systematic review in general as well as responses to the 8 key questions that the AHRQ requested comments for. In addition to its own comments, AOPA actively contributed to comments developed and submitted by the O&P Alliance, of which AOPA is a member. Many other organizations and individuals have also submitted comments on this very important topic.

[Read the AOPA comments.](#)

Questions regarding the AOPA submission may be directed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@aopanet.org.

AOPA Celebrates 100 Years in 2017 – Become a Part of the Story

AOPA will be celebrating its 100 year anniversary in 2017! AOPA will be memorializing the centennial by producing a keepsake member directory and a commemorative website. We will host special events at the World Congress in Las Vegas September 6-9, and each issue of the 2017 O&P Almanac will highlight some aspect of our shared history.

The 100th Anniversary Commemorative Who's Who Membership Directory will be printed and distributed as a gift to all of our AOPA members. In it, you will see your company name, address, and employee names – all AOPA members will be listed. The directory will also include special sections for O&P history, technology timelines, and photographs that will showcase our members' proud heritage.

AOPA members have the opportunity to add a special message to AOPA in the directory. We are offering congratulatory ads that you can submit that would include your logo, name, and website with your message to AOPA. You can design your own or use our template.

We are also collecting photographs, memorabilia, and personal stories to be used on the commemorative website, social media, and at the AOPA World Congress. [Please share here.](#) Your story is our story.

[Review the details of the directory.](#) We look forward to celebrating 100 years with you. [You can order your ad online.](#) The deadline to reserve a space in the directory is January 15. Ad materials will need to be submitted by February 25.

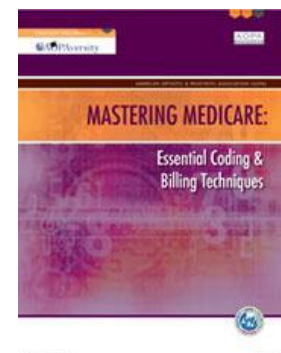
Contact Bob Heiman at bob.rhmedia@comcast.net or (856) 673-4000 with any questions.



AOPA's In-Demand Coding & Billing Manuals are for Sale

AOPA will be making a limited supply of the Mastering Medicare: Essential Coding and Billing Techniques Manual, used at AOPA's popular Coding and Billing Seminars, available for purchase.

Manuals can be purchased at \$185 plus \$7 shipping and handling. Get yours while supplies last! [Purchase your copy.](#)



The First AOPA Coding & Billing Seminar of 2017 is in Nashville, TN!

The AOPA Coding & Billing Experts are Heading to Nashville January 23-24, 2017!

AOPA experts provide the most up-to-date information to help O&P Practitioners and office billing staff learn how to code complex devices, including repairs and adjustments, through interactive discussions with AOPA experts, your colleagues, and much more. Meant for both practitioners and office staff, this advanced two-day event will feature breakout sessions for these two groups, to ensure concentration on material appropriate to each group.

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



Register Now

Register for AOPA's 2017 Webinar Series and Save

**WEBINAR
WEDNESDAYS**



AOPA's 2017 Webinar topics have been announced! Register for the whole series to earn 1.5 credits and get 2 free Webinars! Just \$990 for members and \$1990 for non-members.

January 11- O&P Clinical Documentation: Who Needs to Document and What You Need to Document

February 8 - LSO/TLSO Policy

March 8 - Marketing Your Business

April 12 - Grassroots Advocacy

May 10- Modifiers: What do they mean and when to use them

June 14- Internal Audits: The Why and the How of Conducting Self-Audits

July 12 - Know Your Resources: Where to Look to Find the Answers

August 9 - What the Medicare Audit Data Tells Us & How to Avoid Common Errors

September 13 - ABC Inspections & Accreditation

October 11 - AFO/KAFO Policy

November 8 - Gift Giving: Show Your Thanks & Remain Compliant

December 13 - New Codes & Other Updates for 2018

Questions? Contact rgleeson@AOPAnet.org. Looking for 2016 webinars or 2017 individual webinars? [Visit here.](#)

REGISTER NOW

Call for Papers for the AOPA 2nd World Congress in Las Vegas

**Gain International Recognition * Advance your Career *
Improve Patient Care**

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 free paper abstracts for the 2017 World Congress 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

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.

CLINICAL FREE PAPERS – Health care professionals with an interest in Orthotics, Prosthetics, Pedorthics and related fields wishing to present a Free Paper should submit here to have their abstracts considered for presentation at the 2017 World Congress. A model abstract has been provided with additional information here.

The top scoring papers will compete for the prestigious Thranhardt Award. *Topics of interest include but are not limited to:*

- Additive manufacturing
- Microprocessor components
- Bio-sensors
- Powered joints (O&P Applications)
- Socket designs and socket issues
- Public Health topics related to O and P
- Osseointegration
- New and interesting O and P designs and clinical techniques
- Pediatric O and P
- Scoliosis
- Evidence based practice

SYMPOSIA/INSTRUCTIONAL COURSE – If you are interested in organizing a Symposium or Instructional Course, then please submit here.

TECHNICIAN PROGRAM – If you would like your Technical education paper considered for submission in the Technical Track, please submit your paper here. Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- CAD and/or CAM applications

- The role of the technician in the CAD CAM environment
- The role of the technician in the Additive Manufacturing environment
- New and Cutting edge fabrication techniques and processes

BUSINESS EDUCATION PROGRAM – Are you a seasoned business professional with significant experience in managing an orthotics and prosthetics patient care or manufacturing business? Share your successes at the AOPA hosted World Congress and compete for the prestigious Sam E. Hamontree Business Education Award. The winner of the Hamontree award will take home \$1,000. Learn more or [submit your business paper here](#).

Upcoming AOPA Events

January 11, 2017	<i>O&P Clinical Documentation: Who Needs to Document and What You Need to Document</i> AOPA Webinar Learn more and register here
January 15, 2017	<i>Deadline to reserve a space in the AOPA Directory</i> Review the details of the Directory here
January 23-24, 2017	<i>Coding & Billing Seminar</i> Nashville, TN Learn more and register here