



www.AOPAnet.org

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CMS Announces Next Round of Competitive Bidding-OTS Orthoses ARE NOT Included

Safe for the Next Round

On January 1, CMS announced that the next round of DMEPOS competitive bidding will begin on January 1, 2019. This program, referred to as Competitive Bidding 2019, will consolidate all current Medicare DMEPOS competitive bidding programs into a single competitive bidding program.

Once again, Off the Shelf (OTS) orthoses are not included as a benefit category in Competitive Bidding 2019. While OTS orthoses have been identified as a product category eligible for inclusion, and the creation of the "split" code set several years ago appear to set the stage for their eventual inclusion, CMS has decided not to include OTS orthoses in competitive bidding to date. AOPA will continue to follow developments on this issue closely. [Read the full announcement from CMS.](#)

AOPA100.org Debuts

Celebrating AOPA's Centennial

We are pleased to present our new website commemorating our 100 year anniversary - www.AOPA100.org. The website features AOPA's history, an interactive timeline, photo gallery, O&P stories from AOPA members, and AOPA's plans for the future. Listen to stories from other AOPA members and submit your own, and share photos for our photo gallery.



Medicare Reconsideration Appeals Contractor Announces Expansion of the Formal Telephone Discussion Demonstration

O&P Added; Jurisdictions C and D Only

C2C Innovative Solutions, the Medicare appeals contractor who processes all DMEPOS appeals at the second level, also known as reconsideration, has announced implementation dates for its expansion of the formal telephone discussion demonstration. This program, currently limited to DMEPOS claims in Jurisdiction C and D, will be expanded to include claims for orthoses as of February 17th and claims for prostheses as of March 17th. Claims for therapeutic shoes were added as of January 17th. The formal telephone discussion demonstration is an opportunity for providers to interact directly with the medical review staff at C2C in an attempt to resolve issues that caused the claim to be denied by the DME MAC and subsequently denied at the redetermination level of the appeal process. To date, the demonstration has proven to be very successful with a denial overturn rate approaching 86%. [Read the full update.](#)

Save the Date for the Policy Forum

May 24-25 in Washington, DC

Join AOPA May 24-25 in Washington, DC for the 2017 Policy Forum. The Policy Forum is your best opportunity to learn the latest legislative and regulatory details and how they will affect you, your business and your patients. Once you are armed with the facts, we as a profession will educate our members of Congress to offer common sense solutions and share how the O&P profession restores lives and puts people back to work.



Join the Coding & Billing Experts in Denver, CO

Discounts for AOPA Members

Join AOPA April 10-11 to advance your O&P Practitioners' and billing staff's 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.](#)



BIPA 427 Proposed Rule-AOPA Wants Your Input

Deadline Monday, February 6

AOPA continues to seek member input to help us develop our position and comments regarding the recently released Proposed Rule on Licensed and Accredited O&P Providers based on Section 427 of BIPA 2000. The listening survey on the AOPA website is being extended beyond the original deadline date of January 31, 2017, and will remain open until 5 pm EST on Monday, February 6, 2017. Please take a moment to review and complete the survey on the AOPA website. A subgroup of the AOPA Board will review AOPA member input for our comments and elsewhere on this important issue. [Access the survey.](#)



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