



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

AOPA In Advance SmartBrief
Breaking News
June 8, 2017

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New Room Rate for the AOPA World Congress



AOPA is excited to share the great news of our new lower room rate at the Mandalay Bay. **Only \$125/night** for a great room during the World Congress at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas!

The room block will fill up early, so book your room today.

Register for the World Congress by August 7 to register at the discounted early-bird rate. Register by **July 1** for a chance to win one of two pairs of tickets to Le Rêve- The Dream, voted "Best

Production Show" in Las Vegas for seven consecutive years, courtesy of Fillauer.

AOPA and our 9 international partners welcome you to expand your knowledge, grow your market presence, and advance your career at this unique global gathering. [Register now.](#)



Help Amplify your Patients' Voices!

The Amputee Coalition has launched Amplify, a new initiative to help people with limb loss and limb difference use their collective voice to bring attention to the issues so many face with their insurance providers. As patient-care providers, you know that access to the appropriate care helps your patients remain mobile and achieve optimal outcomes, yet too many people struggle to get the care and devices they need approved. It's time to speak up.



If your patient has experienced challenges accessing prosthetic care – denials, lengthy appeals, or restrictions in coverage – the Amputee Coalition has a tool that can help. Please share this [new tool](#) with your patients and encourage them to write their insurers.

AOPA Announces New Online Reimbursement, Coding & Policy Compendium

Co-OP
New Member Benefit

The Co-OP, an online reimbursement, coding and policy resource, will serve as a collection of concise, but detailed information with links to supporting documentation.

Includes:

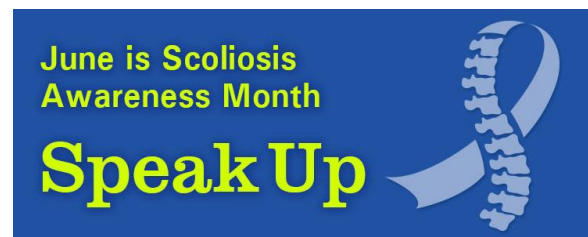
- state specific insurance policy updates,
- Lcode search capability,
- data and evidence resources,
- and so much more!

Visit www.AOPAnet.org/co-op to sign up.

The graphic includes a navigation menu on the left with the following items: Medicare, Medicaid, VA/DOD, Commercial Payors, Data/Evidence, Compliance, State Matters, Good Practices, and Trending Topics. It also features a map of the United States with states color-coded by region.

National Scoliosis Awareness Month

National Scoliosis Awareness Month takes place yearly in June with the goal of highlighting the growing need for education, early detection and awareness to the public about scoliosis and its prevalence within the community. The campaign also unites scoliosis patients, families, physicians, clinicians, institutions and related businesses in collaborative partnerships of local activities, events and grassroots networking throughout the month.



When in Vegas, Party with a Purpose

Mark your calendars! Attend the “Party with a Purpose” on September 7th at the 2017 AOPA World Congress. Space will be limited, so be sure to secure your spot early!



If you have not signed an [O&P PAC authorization card](#) for 2017 please do so immediately! The purpose of the O&P PAC is to be a strong advocate for the orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic community at the federal level. The O&P PAC works closely with Congress and other officials educating them about O&P centered legislation and the overall importance of O&P. We really need your help! In order to participate in and receive information about the O&P PAC, federal law mandates that you must first sign an authorization form. Please direct any questions to Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

Wrap Up of the 2017 AOPA Policy Forum

The 2017 AOPA Policy Forum, held May 24-25, was another successful one for the record books. With the broader healthcare debate going on in Washington and across America, AOPA members came to DC to discuss the issues most important to them and their patients with their lawmakers.

The big story of the Policy Forum was the introduction in the 115th Congress of S.1191 and H.R. 2599, better known as the Medicare O&P Improvements Act of 2017. This bill, among other things, would separate O&P from DME, and allow orthotist's and prosthetist's notes to be part of the medical record for determining medical necessity.



The introduction of this legislation gave AOPA members a chance to tell a terrific story to legislators and Congressional staff during the more than 395 appointments arranged on behalf of the 100 plus O&P professionals and patients that donned their advocacy hats during the May 25th visits to Capitol Hill. In addition to lobbying for the O&P Improvements Act, attendees also requested support for additional funding for O&P research and education, support for the Veterans Bill of Rights, and a moratorium on the Draft LCD and all related lower limb audits.

Representative Brian Mast (R-FL), pictured on the right, was the opening keynote speaker for the Policy Forum, sharing his amazing story of losing both limbs as a bomb technician in Afghanistan, and his rehabilitation at Walter Reed. He reminded members of their value to patients like him, and set the stage for the advocacy briefings that followed throughout the afternoon program. Other members of Congress joining him for the briefings were Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), a physician, who [has emerged as a critical vote in the ACA Repeal-and-Replace efforts](#), and Representative Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), a doctor of podiatric medicine. The O&P PAC sponsored a lunch for Rep. Mast, a reception for Senator Cassidy and a breakfast



for Rep. Wenstrup that were all well-attended and provided an opportunity for AOPA members to engage in serious conversations about the challenges facing O&P providers and patients in a personal environment.

The newest and exclusive AOPA member benefit, the Co-OP, was introduced at the Policy Forum. The Co-OP is an online reimbursement, coding and policy resource that includes a collection of detailed information with links to supporting documentation for the topics most important to AOPA members.

Stay tuned for more information from the 2017 AOPA Policy Forum and updates on current O&P legislation discussed during the Policy Forum.

Issues and Position Papers

[Competitive Bidding](#)

[American Health Care Act](#)

[Veterans Bill of Rights](#)

[Medicare O&P Improvement Act](#)

[Draft Lower Limb LCD Moratorium](#)

[Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act](#)

See more photos at [AOPA's Flickr site](#).

Thank you to our 2017 AOPA Policy Forum Sponsors!



Sign Up for the June 14 AOPA Webinar

Don't miss this month's webinar: [Internal Audits: The Why and the How of Conducting Self-Audits](#)

What do you need to know about conducting audits? Earn 1.5 credits during the Wednesday, June 14th webinar and learn everything you need to know. [Click here to register](#). Topics for discussion include the following:

- How to create an in-house or self-audit
- Where to start when building a self-audit?
- How often should you conduct self-audits?
- What can self-auditing tell you about your business?

June 2017

14

1:00 PM Eastern

New ABN Form – Effective June 21st

The Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN) form has recently been updated and approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). There were no substantial changes made to the content or directions for use of the ABN form (CMS-R-131). The primary revision was to include new language informing patients of their rights to Medicare nondiscrimination practices, and how to request the ABN in a different format if required. *The revised ABN will become effective on June 21, 2017* and may be downloaded [here](#).

Upcoming AOPA Events

- June 14, 2017 *Internal Audits: The Why and the How of Conducting Self-Audits*
AOPA Webinar
[Learn more and register here](#)
- July 12, 2017 Know Your Resources: Where to Look to Find the Answers
AOPA Webinar
[Learn more and register here](#)
- July 17-18, 2017 *Coding & Billing Seminar*
Pittsburgh, PA
[Learn more and register here](#)