



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief
Breaking News
August 17, 2017

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AOPA Announces Awards to be Presented at the World Congress

Join us at the World Congress to see the awards presented at the Thursday opening session and Friday general session. [Learn more about the award winners.](#)

Lifetime Achievement Award



Sir Saeed Zahedi, OBE, FEng, BSc, PhD, FIMechE, CEng, RDI is a biomedical engineer and innovator who is currently the Technical Director at Chas A Blatchford & Sons and a visiting professor at Bournemouth University's Design Simulation Research Centre. He has authored over 125 publications and patented over 35 inventions. He is best known for his work in the development of the world's first fully integrated, microprocessor controlled, lower limb system, Linx. He was knighted "for services to Engineering and Innovation" in 2017.

Ralph R. "Ronney" Snell Legislative Advocacy Award Recipients



Aaron Holm has been a longtime regular at the annual AOPA Policy Forum, and is active in state level advocacy in Minnesota. He founded Wiggle Your Toes, a non-profit that assists individuals who have suffered limb loss through consultation, planning and referrals, while in the hospital after losing both legs above the knee. He has participated in the fight against the draft Lower Limb LCD of 2015, including the rally at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and at a Congressional briefing.



Adrienne Haslet survived the Boston Marathon bombing becoming a below knee amputee and outspoken O&P advocate. As a professional ballroom dancer, she famously danced again. She has worked tirelessly to advance the O&P advocacy agenda by testifying before Congress on our behalf, participating in Congressional Briefings, being part of the 2015 rally at HHS and joining us for our media briefings.

Inventor Awards

- **Van Phillips, Flex-Foot.** The Flex-Foot is the first energy-storing carbon graphite foot, a variation of which is worn by 90 percent of Paralympics participants, and thousands of people around the world.
- **J. Martin "Marty" Carlson, CPO(E), FAAOP, Tamarack Flexure Joint.** The Tamarack Flexure Joint is considered the industry's most widely used thermoformable orthotic joint option for custom and semi-custom articulating ankle-foot orthoses.
- **M.E. "Bill" Miller, CO, The Boston Brace System.** The Boston Brace System is the most studied system and is used throughout the world for the orthotic management of idiopathic scoliosis.
- **Kelly James, PhD, C-Leg.** The C-Leg was the first leg with microprocessor-controlled swing and stance phases, used to treat knee disarticulation and transfemoral amputees.

Edwin & Kathryn Arbogast Award, and Otto & Lucille Becker Awards

- **Elizabeth Bell**, University of Maryland-College Park, "A Mixed-Methods Examination of Limitations to Physical Activity as Reported by Individuals with Lower Extremity Amputations" (Edwin and Kathryn Arbogast Award)
- **Kierra Falbo**, Northwestern University, "Characteristics of Delphi Processes in Orthotics and Prosthetics Research" (Otto and Lucille Becker Award)

AOPA Attends Prosthetic Forum in Michigan



On August 10, Wright & Filippis hosted a Prosthetic Forum for Rep. Mike Bishop, R-MI. Patients, prosthetists, manufacturers (including AOPA Past President Rudy Becker, Jr.), and the educational community (Jeff Wensman, Univ. of Michigan) were represented. The objective of the session, held at Rep. Bishop's request, was to more fully educate him on all aspects of challenges facing the O&P community. The O&P representatives also expressed their appreciation to Rep. Bishop for his support in helping advance H.R. 3178—the provision legitimatizing the orthotist/prosthetist notes as part of the Medicare record

for purposes of medical necessity determinations—through to enactment in July by the full House of Representatives.

Photo, from left: AOPA Board Member Pam Lupo, Rep. Mike Bishop (R-MI), A.J. Filippis, CPO, and AOPA's Tom Fise.

PDAC Announces a Coding Redetermination Project for Custom Diabetic Inserts (A5513)

On July 13, 2017, the DME MACs published a joint publication that addressed the proper use of HCPCS code A5513, which is used to describe molded to patient model diabetic shoe inserts. The joint publication indicated that in order to meet the requirements of the HCPCS code descriptor, diabetic inserts billed using A5513 must be molded over an actual model of the patient's foot. The publication further clarified that the use of generic, electronic or "virtual" models where custom fabrication occurs without creation of a physical model of the patient's foot does not meet the code descriptor, and diabetic inserts fabricated this way cannot be billed as A5513.

On August 10, 2017, the Pricing, Data Analysis, and Coding Contractor (PDAC) announced that based on the previously published coding clarification, it would initiate a Coding Redetermination Project for diabetic inserts described by A5513. As part of this project, all previous A5513 PDAC coding verifications will be end dated effective May 31, 2018. Manufacturers and central fabrication facilities who wish to have their products PDAC verified for A5513 will need to submit a new application to the PDAC. This applies to both new products as well as existing products that were previously verified by the PDAC. The PDAC has indicated that applications should be submitted well in advance of the May 31, 2018 end date in order to allow adequate time for the PDAC to complete its review.

The PDAC notice stated that products that are currently PDAC verified for A5513 may continue to be billed using A5513 until the May 31, 2018 end date. Medicare claims for diabetic inserts described by A5513 with a date of service on or after June 1, 2018 will require a new PDAC coding verification using the requirements outlined in the July 13, 2017 coding clarification. As a reminder, AOPA members who are fabricating diabetic inserts described by A5513 for use by their own patients are not required to obtain PDAC verification but must meet the requirements of the code descriptor which includes the creation of a positive model of the patient's foot. The complete PDAC announcement may be viewed by clicking on the following link. [View the complete PDAC announcement.](#)

Questions regarding this issue may be directed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

RAC Audits for Custom Fabricated LSOs and TLSOs Announced

Performant Recovery, the national Home Health, Hospice, and DMEPOS RAC contractor, has announced that it will be initiating a post-payment complex medical review for custom fabricated LSO and TLSO claims. Performant Recovery added the review to its list of approved issues on August 2, 2017. Providers whose claims are selected for review will receive a letter from Performant Recovery requesting relevant documentation to support medical necessity for the orthoses that was provided.

The RAC audit for custom LSOs and TLSOs is the second O&P specific approved issue since the award of the new RAC contract to Performant Recovery. The first approved issue is an audit for custom AFOs and KAFOs added to the approved issues list on August 2, 2017. AOPA continues to monitor the RAC website to identify additional audit issues as they are announced. The RAC announcement on the audit of custom LSOs and TLSOs may be found by clicking [here](#) and searching for issue 0024.

Questions regarding this issue may be directed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

Register Now to Attend Next Month's 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](#).

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](#).



Listen to the Podcast on the Medicare O&P Improvement Act

We are pleased to share that **amp'd** has a new podcast on the Medicare O&P Improvement Act of 2017, to introduce it to the entire limb loss/disability community and encourage their listeners to contact their legislators to support it. If you are not familiar, **amp'd** is a podcast for people with limb loss, produced by Dave McGill and Peggy Chenoweth, with over 31,000 subscribers on iTunes and more than 40,000 people across all platforms. Access the podcast at <https://www.ampdpod.com/podcast-summaries> (Episode 39).

Full U.S. House Approves Legislation, Including Text to Legitimize the O&P Practitioner's Notes as Part of the Medical Record in Medical Necessity Determination

On July 26, the full House of Representatives acted by consent on suspension to adopt H.R. 3178, a bill to cut red tape and make some non-controversial changes to the Medicare program. Included in this bill was a single provision on O&P-- the long-awaited provision to recognize the orthotist-prosthetist's notes as part of the medical record in Medicare Medical Necessity Determinations. Here is the specific text as enacted by the House:

1 SEC. 103. ORTHOTIST'S AND PROSTHETIST'S CLINICAL NOTES AS PART OF THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL RECORD.

Section 1834(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) DOCUMENTATION CREATED BY ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS.- For purposes of determining the reasonableness and medical necessity of orthotics and prosthetics, documentation created by an orthotist or prosthetist shall be considered part of the individual's medical record to support documentation created by eligible professionals described in section 1848(k)(3)(B)."

AOPA wants to recognize and thank Reps. Mike Bishop (R-MI and a Ways & Means member), Glenn Thompson (R-PA) who advanced the similar provision as part of the broader Medicare O&P Improvement Act, H.R. 2599, and Mike Thompson (D-CA and a Ways & Means Committee Member), and both House Ways & Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Richard Neal (D-MA and the Ranking Minority Member of the Ways & Means Committee), for their strong support which resulted in this important action. Now it is on to the Senate, where S. 1191, the Grassley-Warner bill, supported by Senators Cassidy (R-LA) and Duckworth (D-IL) will hopefully move forward similarly to favorable action.

AOPA will keep you updated on any developments.

Recent Jurisdiction D Reports Pre-Payment Audit Results

Noridian Healthcare Services, which serves as the Jurisdiction D DME MAC, recently released results of pre-payment audits for knee orthoses (KO) described by codes L1810, L1812, L1820, L1830, L1831, L1832, L1833, L1834, L1836, L1840, L1843, L1844, L1845, L1846, L1847, L1848, L1850, L1851, L1852 and L1860.

The pre-payment review included 95 claims, submitted between January 2017 and April 2017, of which 88 were denied for an overall claim potential improper payment rate of 96%. Common reasons for denial included failure to respond to requests for additional documentation, invalid proof of delivery documentation, coverage criteria not met, and the claim was same or similar to the one on file. Based on the overall denial rates, Noridian will continue its pre-payment review for the above listed KOs.

Questions regarding this issue may be directed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

Register for the LAST Coding & Billing Seminar of 2017 in Phoenix, AZ

Join the AOPA Billing & Coding Experts November 6-7 in Phoenix, AZ

Book your hotel room before October 13 for AOPA's rate of \$179 per night. 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

Party With a Purpose: RSVP Today, Space Still Available

The Party With a Purpose has a little bit of everything and something for everyone and includes:

- Dinner
- Hand Crafted Cocktails
- Private Cigar Lounge
- Hand Rolled Cigars
- Live Entertainment
- Silent Auction

Attending the 2017 AOPA World Congress? Don't forget to register for the "Party With a Purpose" on Thursday, September 7 at 6:30 pm at the 1923 Bourbon Bar, a private and modern speakeasy. Don't miss the fun!

Space will be limited, so be sure to secure your spot today!

This is a special event and certain rules and restrictions may apply. For additional information about the Party with a Purpose or to register, contact Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

Upcoming AOPA Events

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| September 6-9, 2017 | <i>AOPA 2nd World Congress</i>
Las Vegas, NV
Learn more and register here |
| September 13, 2017 | <i>ABC Inspections & Accreditation</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more and register here |
| November 6-7, 2017 | <i>Coding & Billing Seminar</i>
Phoenix, AZ
Learn more and register here |