



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief
Breaking News
September 12, 2017

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AOPA 2nd World Congress Recap

The AOPA World Congress in Las Vegas– An Impressive Event!

AOPA's Centennial Celebration and World Congress in Las Vegas set a new record with over 2,500 attendees! Exhibitors and attendees came from 41 countries, making it a truly global event.

The exhibit hall opened with a performance from the Las Vegas production La Reve- the Dream, with an impressive dancer doing backflips on a prosthetic leg. The morning opening session presented Saeed Zahedi, PhD with the Lifetime Achievement awards and 4 notable inventors were honored for their contribution to O&P: Van Phillips (Flex-Foot); Marty Carlson, CPO(E), FAAOP (Tamarack Flexure Joint); M.E. "Bill" Miller, CO, (The Boston Brace System); and Kelly James, (C-Leg).



The educational line-up was described as our "best ever", with presentations on Exosekeletons, Osseointegration, Gait Salvage, CMT, and all the latest clinical research. Business managers learned all about documentation, heard from the DME MACs, watched

demos of the [AOPA Co-OP](#), and more, while pedorthic and technical education covered all the latest topics.

As part of the Prosthetics 2020 research initiative, findings from the RAND Study “Economic Value of Advanced Transfemoral Prosthetics” were presented – that microprocessor knees (MPKs) provided economic benefits and quality of life improvement over non-MPKs. The study is now available on [RAND’s website](#). Al Dobson, PhD presented the updated Dobson-DaVanzo cost-effectiveness study using the 2007-14 Medicare data, that found that O&P care is still cost-effective, similar to the 2007-10 data.



Attendees enjoyed the Walk through Time showcase in the Exhibit Hall, with artifacts and photos spanning O&P’s history. The Party with a Purpose fundraiser for AOPA’s government relations efforts brought in over \$50,000, at an exclusive party at the 1923 Bourbon Bar Speakeasy.

See all the photos on [Flickr](#) and search #AOPA2017 on Twitter.



MD Orthopaedics sponsored the Step it Challenge, with prizes for the people who had the most daily steps each day.

Grand prize winner: Michael Ryan with 58,986 steps
Wednesday: Karla Carrol, 25,000
Thursday: Galen Laski 29,000
Friday: Robin Shephard 27,000

Thranhardt Lecture Winners

Launched by a gift from J.E Hanger in memory of Howard R. Thranhardt, CP, the series offers an honorarium to the

winners. The series recognizes individuals committed to advancing O&P education and research. Winners of the Thranhardt Lecture receive an award of \$500 each.

-Shenan Hoppe-Ludwig, CPO, “The Micro-Processor Controlled Orthosis: What is the Impact to the User Versus the Stance control Orthosis and Conventional Locked KAFO”

-Andrea Giovanni Cutti, PhD, “Reference Values for Temporal Gait and Loading Symmetry of Lower-Limb Amputees Can Help in Refocusing Rehabilitation Targets”

Hamontree Lecture Winner

The Sam E. Hamontree, CP(E), Business Education Award was created to recognize the best business education paper, idea and/or proposal submitted for presentation. This award is a counterpart to the Thranhardt Award given each year to the best clinical abstract

Ryan Ball, “Competitive Differentiator: Executing a Data-Drive Growth Strategy in O&P.”

Ralph R. “Ronney” Snell Legislative Advocacy Award Recipients

The Ralph R. “Ronney” Snell, CPO, FAAOP, Legislative Advocacy Award recognizes individuals who have made valuable contributions toward advancing the legislative and regulatory goals of the O&P field by motivating members of Congress and other decision makers to take action on behalf of O&P. *Right picture features the winners.*

- Aaron Holm
- Adrienne Haslet

\$2000 Giveaway, Sponsored by: Townsend Design/Thuasne USA

- Mark Smith

Technical Fabrication Contest: Below knee prosthesis

Student/Resident:

1. Matt Mausner
2. Andrew Maurer

Technician:

1. Darrell Johnston, CTO
2. Christopher Meyer

Practitioner:

1. Pankaj Sinha, CPO
2. Tony Ward, CPO

Articulating AFO

Student/Resident:

1. Zach Golay
2. Matthew Mausner

Technician:

1. Darrell Johnston, CTO
2. Steven Werkheiser

Practitioner:

1. Anton Kruglov, CPO
2. Wes Golay



“Show your Vegas Style” Contest during the Welcome Reception

Best Large Sized Booth Winner: College Park Industries
Runner Up: ALPS

Medium Size Booth Winner: Cascade Orthopedic Supply
Runner Up: DAW Industries

Small Size Booth Winner: LimbTex Ltd.
Runner Up: American Board for Certification



College Park

Be Sure to Use the Proper CMS-1500 Form

Effective August 30, 2017 any paper claims submitted to Medicare must be submitted using the current CMS-1500 form, version 02/12. To verify if you are using the correct form double check the version number on the top of the claim form and in the lower right hand corner. The version number should be 02/12.

Paper claims not submitted using the CMS-1500 form version 02/12 will be returned and not processed.

Questions? Contact Joe McTernan (jmcternan@AOPAnet.org) or Devon Bernard (dbernard@AOPAnet.org).

CMS Announces a Shift in Medicare Pre-Payment Audit Processes

On August 14, 2017, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the expansion of a pilot program aimed at narrowing the focus of pre-payment audits performed by Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs). The pilot program, known as Target, Probe, and Educate (TPE) has been expanded from one MAC to four and will be implemented nationwide later in 2017. Two of the MACs selected for the pilot expansion include the Jurisdiction B and Jurisdiction D DME MACs, which implemented the program in July of 2017.

The purpose of the TPE program, as stated by CMS, is to focus on specific suppliers within a benefit category selected for review that have historically high claim error rates or higher than normal utilization patterns. The TPE program will consist of up to 3 rounds of pre-payment review and supplier specific education based on the results of the review. Suppliers selected for the TPE program will receive a notification letter followed by a sample of 20 to 40 claims that have been selected for audit. Once the supplier submits the requested documentation, the audit will take place and an error rate will be established. The supplier will then have a dedicated education session with the medical review staff to discuss strategies to improve their claim submission process. If the supplier's success rate is not adequate, up to 2 additional rounds of audit and education will take place. If during any of the three rounds of the TPE process, the supplier's success rate is deemed adequate, the supplier will be removed from the TPE program for up to one year.

While the TPE program is currently being run as a pilot program in the Jurisdiction B and D DME MACs, CMS has announced that it intends to implement the TPE program across all MACs later in 2017.

The CMS announcement regarding the expansion of the TPE Pilot program may be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Questions regarding the TPE program may be directed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

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PDAC Announces a Coding Redetermination Project for Custom Diabetic Inserts

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.

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](#)

Upcoming AOPA Events

September 13, 2017	<i>ABC Inspections & Accreditation</i> AOPA Webinar Learn more and register here
October 11, 2017	<i>AFO/KAFO Policy</i> AOPA Webinar Learn more and register here
November 6-7, 2017	<i>Coding & Billing Seminar</i> Phoenix, AZ Learn more and register here