



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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**AOPA In Advance SmartBrief**  
***Breaking News***  
**January 18, 2018**

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<b>Support HR 4772 - Bill that Would Clarify Minimal Self-Adjustment</b>
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Use [AOPAvotes.org](http://AOPAvotes.org) to support H.R.4772 – a subpart from the earlier H.R. 2599 Medicare O&P Improvement Act, this would amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for clarification under the Medicare program about minimal self-adjustment for off-the-shelf orthotics.

This bill would clarify that “off-the-shelf (OTS) orthotics” eligible for competitive bidding be limited to those devices that require minimal self-adjustment only by the patient, and not another person in order to fit the patient.

Visit [AOPAvotes.org](http://AOPAvotes.org) to reach your legislators today.

## CMS Issues Temporary "K" Code to Describe Direct Milled, Custom Fabricated Diabetic Inserts

On January 11, 2018, as part of its quarterly HCPCS update, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a new HCPCS code to describe direct milled, custom fabricated diabetic inserts. The new code is effective April 1, 2018 reads as follows:

**K0903--For Diabetics Only, Multiple Density Insert, Made By Direct Carving With CAM Technology From A Rectified CAD Model Created From A Digitized Scan Of The Patient, Total Contact With Patient's Foot, Including Arch, Base Layer Minimum Of 3/16 Inch Material Of Shore A 35 Durometer (Or Higher), Includes Arch Filler And Other Shaping Material, Custom Fabricated, Each**

The new code is categorized as a "K" code which is technically a temporary code designed to allow CMS to track utilization prior to deciding whether to issue a permanent HCPCS code, in this case an "A" code. Any codes that are created mid-year must be issued as "K" codes.

The purpose of the K code is to differentiate between custom fabricated diabetic inserts that are molded over a physical model of the patient's foot (A5513) from those that are direct milled based on a digital or virtual model of the patient's foot. While both manufacturing processes result in functionally identical custom fabricated, total contact inserts, CMS has indicated that direct milled inserts, while qualified to meet the DMEPOS Supplier Standards definition of molded to patient model, do not meet the requirements of A5513. AOPA has challenged this premise and is continuing to discuss this issue with high ranking CMS officials.

A fee schedule for K0903 has not been released. CMS has previously indicated that Medicare reimbursement for direct milled inserts would be 14% lower than the current reimbursement rate for custom molded inserts described by A5513 due to the lack of creation of a physical model of the patient's foot. AOPA disagrees with CMS on this issue and provided extensive comments regarding reimbursement for direct milled inserts in its formal submission to CMS. AOPA will continue to follow this issue closely and will provide additional information upon its release by CMS.

Questions regarding this issue may be directed to Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@aopanet.org](mailto:jmcternan@aopanet.org) or Devon Bernard at [dbernard@aopanet.org](mailto:dbernard@aopanet.org).

## 2018 Quick Coders are Now Available

Stop searching through numerous pages to find a code! AOPA's Quick Coder provides a speedy reference to the HCPCS orthotic, shoe and prosthetic codes and modifiers. These laminated cards are durable, long-lasting and convenient to store.

Only \$30 for members/\$80 for non-members

[Shop in the bookstore.](#)



## AOPA 2018 Policy Forum Dates Announced – March 7 & 8

The 2018 AOPA Policy Forum will be in March 7-8 in Washington, DC. 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. More details and registration will be coming soon. [Learn more.](#)



## Present at the 2018 AOPA National Assembly in Vancouver, Canada



### Gain International Recognition \* Advance Your Career \* Improve Patient Care

AOPA is seeking high-quality educational and research content for the 2018 AOPA National Assembly, September 26-29 in Vancouver, BC, Canada. **All submissions are due March 1, 2018.**

Your submissions will set the stage for a broad curriculum of high-value clinical and scientific offerings at the National Assembly. All free paper abstracts 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



**Clinical Free Papers** - Present an Orthotic, Prosthetic or Pedorthic Free Paper. The top scoring papers will compete for the prestigious Thranhardt Award.

**Technician Program** - Submit your Technical education paper for submission the Technical Track.

**Symposia** - If you are interested in organizing a Symposium.

**Business Education Program** - The top papers will be considered for the prestigious Sam E. Hamontree, CP (E) Business Education Award.

**Pedorthic Program** - Healthcare professionals with an interest in Pedorthics should use this form.

[Learn more.](#)

## 2018 AOPA Webinars Announced

AOPA is pleased to announce the topics for its 2018 Webinars, which take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. Eastern Time. [Register here.](#)

January 10- Lower Limb Protheses Policy: A Comprehensive Review

February 14-Inpatient Billing

March 14 - Medicare Coding Guidelines: MUEs, PTPs, PDAC, etc.

April 11-Enhancing Cash Flow & Increasing Your Accounts Receivable

May 9 - Coding: Understanding the Basics

June 13- Audits: Know the Types, Know the Players, and Know the Rules

July 11-Administrative Documentation

August 8 --Outcomes & Patient Satisfaction Surveys

September 12-Medicare as Secondary Payer: Knowing the Rules

October 10- Year End Review: How to Wrap-Up & Get Ready for the New Year

November 14: Evaluating Your Compliance Plan & Procedures: How to Audit Your Practice

December 12: New Codes, Medicare Changes & Updates

During these one-hour sessions, AOPA experts provide the most up-to-date information on a specific topic. Perfect for the entire staff-- a great team-building, money-saving, educational experience! Sign up for the entire series and get two conferences FREE. Entire Series (\$990 Members/\$1,990 Non-Members). [Register here.](#)

## In Memoriam: Robert Eugene Teufel

Robert Eugene Teufel, 78 of Elizabethtown, PA passed away unexpectedly on January 7, 2018 in Florida. Born April 4, 1939, he was the son of Eugene & Elsa Teufel. Bob grew up in Elizabethtown, PA and graduated from Elizabethtown High School and College. He played football, basketball and baseball in high school and college, earning many honors including being inducted into the hall of fame at EAHS. He was a member of the Army Reserves. Bob owned Teufel Orthotic-Prosthetic Associates where he worked for 48 years, helping many people. He was a member at Evangelical Free Church of Hershey, then later was a regular attendee at LCBC Church.



He was known as an extremely generous, kind and hard working man who was always making a new friend. Bob was an avid golfer and fisherman and loved sports and games of all kinds. He especially enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren play. Bob always had a joke to tell and some candy to give away.

Robert leaves behind to cherish his memory, his wife of 55 years, Jean Zarfoss Teufel; four daughters, Lynn Max (Jerry), Kelly Wieand (Jason), Joy Epler (Todd) & Krissy Wright (Richard); ten beloved grandchildren, Jenna, Jill, Paige, Christian, Cole, Colin, Jaide, Nathaniel, Lily & Zachary; and two great grandsons, Levi & Carter. He was predeceased by his sister, Hanne Kreider. A memorial service to honor Bob's life will be held on Friday, January 19, 2018 at 6:00 pm at LCBC church, 2392 Mt. Joy Rd. Manheim, PA. In lieu of flowers, his family requests donations be sent to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research @ michaeljfox.org or P. O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741-50

## Upcoming AOPA Events

- February 14, 2018      *Inpatient Billing*  
AOPA Webinar  
[Learn more and register here](#)
- February 26-27, 2018      Coding & Billing Seminar  
Atlanta, Georgia  
[Learn more and register here](#)
- March 7-8, 2018      AOPA Policy Forum  
Washington, D.C.  
[Learn more here](#)