



In Case you Missed It:

TWICE-MONTHLY RECAP

www.AOPAnet.org

March 16, 2018

AOPA Secures an Advocacy Victory on Reimbursement for Custom Fabricated, Direct Milled Diabetic Inserts

Important precedent on using advanced technology to fabricate

AOPA is very pleased to announce an advocacy win regarding the fee structure for K0903/A5513. AOPA has confirmed with CMS that the Medicare fee schedule for K0903, a temporary HCPCS code, effective April 1, 2018, that describes custom fabricated, direct milled diabetic inserts has been set at the same amount as the current Medicare fee schedule for A5513 (\$43.56 for most states), which describes custom fabricated diabetic inserts that are fabricated over a positive model of the patient's foot. This has been a very long battle, one in which AOPA partnered with the American Podiatric Medical Association, the O&P Alliance, and the Amputee Coalition. This is VERY important because A5513 is not the only code where scanning processes have evolved - this hopefully sets the right precedent for the agency. [Read more.](#)

The 2018 Policy Forum - Another Success!

96 attendees went to 500 meetings

The 2018 AOPA Policy Forum held March 7-8 was another success that presented realistic opportunities for O&P stakeholders to meet with Congressional representatives to improve patient care and advance other legislative objectives. With a recent legislative win under our belts, AOPA members and O&P users traveled to DC to visit lawmakers to build on this momentum, presenting their stories of the impact O&P makes on patients' lives, and suggesting common sense solutions to issues obstructing O&P interventions. [Read the wrap-up and see the photos.](#)



AOPA past president Michael Oros, CPO, LPO, FAAOP, Sen Cardin, (D-MD), AOPA president Jim Weber, MBA

AOPA Submits Comments on Proposed Rule that Would Impact Coverage of Essential Health Benefits

Change could effect Essential Health Benefits

On March 6, 2018, AOPA submitted comments on a proposed rule that would change the definition of the term "employer" as it relates to association health plans and the requirement to cover "essential health benefits" under provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The proposed rule states that by expanding the definition of the term "employer", association-based health plans will have new opportunities to negotiate terms with insurance companies that will benefit its members. AOPA's primary concern with the proposed rule is that the proposed expansion of association health plans will significantly reduce the requirements for these plans to provide coverage for health benefits, including orthotics and prosthetics, which have been designated as essential health benefits by provisions of the ACA. [Read the comments.](#)

Attend the San Antonio Coding & Billing Seminar

Attend the San Antonio Coding & Billing Seminar, April 30 - May 1

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. Book by March 30 for the early bird rate. [Learn more and register.](#)



UCSF hosting O&P Innovation and Technology Symposium

San Francisco, May 11-12

The conference mission is to foster emerging technologies that can advance patient care and have a transformative impact on the field of orthotics and prosthetics. [Learn more.](#)



Opportunities for Clinical O&P Research Support from AOPA

The deadline for all proposals is April 30, 2018

AOPA has announced 5 Requests for Proposals for separate research grants. As part of AOPA's Orthotics 2020 initiative, we are committed to making a major leap forward in clinical research that can answer some of the most important and profound issues about Orthotics. AOPA, together with its many partners among O&P manufacturers, patient care companies, and others entities committed to an evidence-driven future for O&P, will be funding one grant for each topic below in amounts of up to \$60,000-\$75,000, varying by topic- see each RFP for the specifics of the grant. In partnership with the Center for O&P Learning & Evidence-Based Practice (COPL), AOPA is accepting applications for pilot grants for up to \$15,000-\$30,000 for ten O&P topics, including an open topic (multiple grants will be funded). [See the grant topics.](#)

