



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief
Breaking News
May 3, 2018

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Initial Report on TPE Program Suggests Positive Results

Noridian Healthcare Solutions, who serves as the Jurisdiction A and Jurisdiction D Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractor, has released results for its initial audits under the Target, Probe, and Educate (TPE) program in Jurisdiction D. The published results are only for four HCPCS codes selected for the TPE program: L4360, L4361, L4386, and L4387, which all describe walking boot style orthoses.

The results of the TPE audits are encouraging with an improper claim payment rate of 19%. This improper payment rate represents a vast improvement over error rates under the previous audit system which consisted of a probe review followed by a widespread pre-payment review. Improper payment rates under this program ranged from 66% to 100% for walking boot style orthoses.

While the results did not discuss the reason for the significant reduction in the error rate, it is logical to conclude that the improvements are primarily due to the education efforts that are an integral part of the TPE program. The TPE program is designed to provide up to 3 rounds of audits with personalized provider education after each round that is designed to address the specific reasons for claim denial.

The results published by Noridian are certainly encouraging and AOPA will be monitoring the DME MAC websites for additional results from the TPE program.

[View the Noridian publication.](#)

Low Volume Appeals Program Has Been Extended

The Low Volume Appeals (LVA) program has been extended. If you have fewer than 500 appeals pending at Administrative Law Judge level or higher, and each appeal has a total billed amount of \$9,000 or less you may file an expression of interest for a limited settlement agreement. The agreement will result in a timely one-time partial payment of 62% of the net Medicare approved. If you wish to take part in the LVA your expression of interest must be filed by June 8, 2018.

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

Lower Limb Prostheses Policy Has Been Revised

The Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MAC) have recently released revisions to the Lower Limb Prostheses (LLP) medical policy. The revisions don't represent any shifts in policy and coverage. The revisions now incorporate a previous DME MAC correct coding reminder on the proper usage of prosthetic skins and covers. The LLP Policy Article now states:

Lower limb prosthetic covers (L5704-L5707) are complete products and afford shape, protection and waterproofing for normal daily usage of the prosthesis. They offer sufficient protection and weatherproofing for beneficiaries who require lower limb prosthetics.

Protective outer surface covering systems (L5962, L5964, and L5966) are specialized covers intended to be worn over an existing prosthesis. They are used by a beneficiary who has special needs for protection against unusually harsh environmental situations where it is necessary to protect the lower limb prosthesis beyond the level of protection that is afforded by L5704-L5707. They are not for cosmetic or convenience reasons, or for everyday usage in a typical environment. Protective outer surface coverings are different from the covering that is already reimbursed as part of L5704 – L5707.

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

AOPA-Funded Systematic Review is Now Complete

In 2015 AOPA awarded a grant to Michael Dillon, PhD of La Trobe University for his project "Evaluating outcomes of dysvascular partial foot and transtibial amputation: a systematic review for the development of shared decision making resources." The project has now been completed and the research team accomplished the following:

- registered the systematic review protocol with PROSPERO
- published six articles in peer reviewed journals including: o a systematic review protocol (available as open access)
- two systematic reviews (both available as open access)

- an expert clinical view point describing the development of the decision aid and discussion guide
- two translational pieces challenging long held views about the association between amputation level and mortality rates, as well as increasing amputation prevalence
- written the first decision aid and discussion guide to help support decisions about dysvascular amputation
- translated this work through seven keynote/invited addresses
- published translational pieces for online magazines such as *O&P Almanac* and *Amplified* –

See the open access publications and AOPA's other funded research [on our website](#).

AFO/KAFO Policy Has Been Revised

The DME MACs recently released a series of revisions to the AFO/KAFO Medicare medical policy with an effective date of 01/01/17. The revisions were predominantly clerical (e.g. include language associated with the 21 Century Cures Act and updating the list of off-the-shelf/custom fitted braces) and should not have a direct effect on your coding, billing and medical necessity determinations. In addition the revised policy now states in writing that walking boots (L4360, L4361, L4386 or L4387) are all inclusive and may not be billed with any other add-on codes.

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

New Medicare ID Cards are being Mailed this Spring

Just as a reminder the first two waves of mailings of the new Medicare ID cards with a Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI), instead of the current Health Insurance Claim Number (HCIN), have begun this spring and will continue until June. The first wave includes beneficiaries in: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. The second wave includes beneficiaries in: Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, and Oregon. With these mailings Medicare will start the transition period of allowing claims to use either the old HCIN or new MBI. To review what to expect with the new ID cards and what you can do to prepare please read the reimbursement page in the [November 2017 issue of the *O&P Almanac*](#).

AOPA Confirms K0903 Medicare Fee Schedule at Same Rate as A5513

Recently, AOPA announced an important Advocacy victory regarding the Medicare fee schedule amount for K0903, the newly created HCPCS code used to describe direct milled, custom fabricated diabetic inserts. When K0903 was first announced, CMS indicated that the Medicare fee schedule would be approximately \$5.00 less than the current fee schedule for A5513 which describes custom fabricated diabetic inserts molded over a positive model of the patient's foot. AOPA challenged this position and presented several arguments that supported the direct crosswalk of the Medicare fee schedule for A5513 to the fee schedule for K0903.

Last week, AOPA announced that CMS had issued a bulletin indicating that the fee schedule for K0903 would be set at \$43.56, the current Medicare fee schedule for A5513. CMS has released the Medicare fee schedule update for April 1, 2018 and AOPA has confirmed that the Medicare

allowable for K0903 has indeed been established at \$43.56, the identical fee schedule amount for A5513.

AOPA is proud of this advocacy victory, not only for what it represents for providers of diabetic inserts, but also for the precedent that it sets for future issues involving the use of scanning and other technology to create alternate manufacturing processes in orthotics and prosthetics.

Join AOPA in Leipzig, Germany: May 15-18



Consider joining AOPA in Leipzig, Germany May 15-18 for the largest exhibition in the world dedicated to orthotics and prosthetics. AOPA is co-hosting the U.S. Pavilion with Kallman and Associates. The Pavilion will provide AOPA supplier members with an interpreter,

refreshments and a comfortable meeting place. Should you have questions about exhibiting please contact Mark Alt, Vice President of International Events, Kallman Associates at (201) 652-7070, ext 111 or email mark@kallmanexpo.com. If you'd like to learn more about OT World visit www.ot-world.com.

Opportunities for Clinical O&P Research Support from AOPA – April 30th Deadline

The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association is proud to announce 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.

1. [Orthotic Treatment for Stroke Patients](#)
2. [Back Bracing](#)
3. [Osteoarthritis of the Knee](#)
4. [Orthotic Treatment for Plagiocephaly in Pediatric Patients](#)

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).

- [Pilot Grant RFP](#)

The deadline for all proposals is April 30, 2018.

Attend the St. Louis Coding & Billing Seminar July 23-24

When: July 23-24
Location: The Westin St. Louis
811 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63102

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](#)

Exhibit at the AOPA National Assembly – Sept. 26-29 in Vancouver, Canada



AOPA is currently accepting exhibit applications for the 2018 AOPA National Assembly which is to be held September 26-29, 2018 in beautiful Vancouver, Canada. Now is your chance to sign up and showcase your products at the largest O&P tradeshow in the Western Hemisphere. This world-wide convention opportunity features 4 days of high-level networking, exhibits, the latest techniques in O&P treatment, and the finest industry specific business and clinical training programs. We hope you make plans to join us.

Exhibiting at this important event will give you the opportunity to:

- Build your customer base and increase sales by meeting with Facility Owners and decision-making practitioners.
- Experience face-to-face time with existing customers to answer questions and build new relationships.
- Enjoy sponsored networking opportunities, including an opening welcome reception in the exhibit hall.

- Take advantage of fun traffic-building opportunities.
- Take advantage of education sessions to learn what's happening with U.S. health care reform, Medicare, and other regulatory agencies that affect the success of your products.
- Increase visibility for your company/organization in a targeted market.
- Host a Manufacturer's Workshop and/or Product Preview Theater presentation.
- Speak to AOPA coding experts to learn what's happening with U.S. government sponsored healthcare programs.
- Increase your exposure through a wide variety of advertising and sponsorship opportunities.
- Hear from top-researchers and clinicians to learn what products and support is needed from manufacturers.
- Participate in key education programs and plenary sessions.
- Benefit from global exposure.
- Much more!

[Click here to sign up](#) today to exhibit at the 2018 AOPA National Assembly. Questions? Contact Kelly O'Neill at kelly.oneill@AOPAnet.org or call (571) 431-0852.



Easy day trips and tours in Vancouver!

Join us for the 2018 AOPA National Assembly in Vancouver, BC, Canada, September 26-29 and take advantage of the wonderful location to take easy daytrips and tours of the region. AOPA has partnered with Landsea Tours & Adventures to offer AOPA Assembly attendees, and their travelling companions, special rates on sightseeing tours of Vancouver and the surrounding areas. Landsea is offering 7 different tours, from a four hour tour of Vancouver city highlights, to longer trips to Capilano Suspension Bridge Park, Whistler, Victoria, the Sea to Sky Gondola, and more. [See the tour options.](#) Don't forget to renew your passport if necessary!

Upcoming AOPA Events

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| May 9, 2018 | <i>Coding: Understanding the Basics</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more and register here |
| June 13, 2018 | <i>Audits: Know the Types, Know the Players, and Know the Rules</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more and register here |
| July 23-24, 2018 | Coding & Billing Seminar
St. Louis, MO
Learn more and register here |