



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

Purpose:

The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association (AOPA) provides members with resources that ensure high-quality patient care; promotes the education of public policy makers, influencers and third party payers about the critical role played by orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) professionals in delivering care; and protects patients and the profession from threats that would impair delivering quality care.

O&P Professionals serve prosthetic (artificial limbs), orthotic (orthopedic braces) and pedorthic (shoes and shoe inserts) patient needs.

Key Patient Facts

- In 2011, Medicare approved payment for nearly 2.3 million orthotic codes that accounted for more than \$597 million in Medicare expenditures.
- The **orthotic** code with the highest Medicare expenditure in 2011 was for a prefabricated lumbar sacral orthosis (LSO) or back brace. Medicare approved payment for 103 thousand braces for over \$94 million.
- In 2011, Medicare allowed nearly 2.3 million **prosthetic** services for \$756 million in expenditures.
- The **prosthetic** code with the highest Medicare expenditure in 2011 was for a type of lower extremity locking socket insert. Medicare approved payment of more than \$56 million for this component.
- Medicare approved nearly 6.2 million **pedorthic** codes for \$263 million in payments in 2011.
- The **pedorthic** code with the highest Medicare expenditure in 2011 was an off-the-shelf diabetic shoe. Medicare approved payment for 1.8 million shoes for expenditures of \$109 million.
- The risk of losing a foot or leg is 15–40 times higher for people living with diabetes than for those without the disease, according to the American Diabetes Association (ADA). More than 80,000 diabetes-related lower limb amputations are performed every year in the U.S., the International Diabetes Federation reports. Another 30 thousand limb amputations result annually from Peripheral Vascular Disease.

Industry Facts

- More than 3,000 patient care facilities provide orthotic and prosthetic services
- More than 800 facilities provide pedorthic services
- AOPA estimates that the O&P businesses provide patient services worth more than \$3.45 billion annually
- More than \$60 million in government funds has been earmarked for research related to orthotic and prosthetic needs by veterans

ABOUT AOPA: Founded in 1917, the American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association (AOPA), based in Alexandria, Virginia, is the largest non-profit organization dedicated to helping orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) businesses and professionals navigate the multitude of issues surrounding the delivery of quality patient care. With nearly 2,000 members, AOPA serves the O&P profession with advocacy on Capitol Hill, premier publications, high-quality coding products, expert reimbursement guidance and a full slate of education programming on O&P-specific issues.

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