



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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Breaking News

January 20, 2015

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Read AOPA's Take on Marilyn Tavenner's Resignation from CMS

New post on AOPA's Take, our new blog to keep you in the loop regarding news and information that is vital to the business of O&P. Subscribe today at www.AOPAstake.org...Where you go when you need to know!



Marilyn Tavenner announced her resignation as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), effective at the end of February 2015. Administrator Tavenner, who was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 91-7 in May 2013, served as Acting Administrator for several years before her permanent appointment.

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Matthews Burwell announced that Andrew Slavitt, Principal Deputy Administrator, will serve as the Acting Administrator once Administrator Tavenner leaves CMS in February.

AOPA's Take on this development is that while this resignation is certainly a significant event, it is not expected to bring fundamental change to CMS or how it operates in the near future. The tenure of Administrator Tavenner has been dominated by the worst period of excessive regulation of Medicare and Medicaid providers, including the implementation of over aggressive audit practices against O&P providers by both the DME MACs and Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs). [Keep reading at www.AOPAstake.org](http://www.AOPAstake.org)...

It's Not Too Late: Register Now for the Coding & Billing Seminar in Savannah, GA



Did you Miss Last Year's Seminars?

Don't Miss out this Year! The AOPA Coding & Billing Experts Are Coming to Savannah February 9-10!

THE FIRST CODING & BILLING SEMINAR OF 2015!

The world of coding and billing has changed dramatically in the last few years. The AOPA experts are here for you! The Coding & Billing Seminar will teach you the most up-to-date information to advance your O&P practitioners' and billing staff's coding knowledge.

The seminar includes hands-on breakout sessions, where you will practice coding complex devices, including repairs and adjustments. Breakouts are tailored specifically for practitioners and billing staff. Start the year off right for your business, staff, and patients!

Join your Colleagues February 9th & 10th in Savannah, GA!

Today's Top 10 Reasons to Attend

1. **Get Your Claims PAID**
2. **Increase Your Company's Bottom Line**
3. **Stay Up-To-Date On Billing Medicare**
4. **Code Complex Devices**
5. **Earn 14 CE Credits**
6. **Learn About Audit Updates**
7. **Overturn Denials**
8. ***Submit YOUR Specific Questions Ahead of Time***
9. **Advance Your Career**
10. **AOPA Coding & Billing Experts with over 70 Years of Combined Experience**

Don't miss the opportunity to experience two jam-packed days of valuable O&P coding and billing information. [Learn more and see the rest of the year's schedule here.](#)

Register Now

CAPO and CBCPO Announces Merger



The Canadian Association for Prosthetics and Orthotics (CAPO) and the Canadian Board for Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists (CBCPO) have combined to form Orthotics Prosthetics Canada (OPC). OPC takes effect January 1, 2015, and its role is to protect the public and advance the profession of prosthetics and orthotics through quality standards of practice, professional credentialing, education and awareness. Other primary roles for OPC include the establishment of standards for the profession and ensure ethical conduct by its professionals. As well OPC will establish itself as a hub for information, news and education about prosthetics and orthotics.

ABC Sponsors OPAF's McKeever's First Ride

The American Board for Certification (ABC) in Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics returns as a Primary Sponsor for OPAF's McKeever's First Ride Clinic in Atlanta on April 18. McKeever's First Ride (MFR) continues to focus on the nation's military, both the active duty and veteran population. MFR offers gentle horsemanship, riding, roping, carriages and more, and conveys the power of the human spirit with the majesty of the horse. Dan McKeever, CP was the second president of ABC and honoring his legacy through this event is a most fitting way to recognize his contributions to the profession.



Exhibit at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly in San Antonio, TX



AOPA is currently accepting exhibit applications for the 2015 AOPA National Assembly, which is due to take place in San Antonio, TX on October 7-10, 2014. The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center will serve as the event's venue. This event, the oldest and largest of its kind in the United States, will feature dedicated tracks of the most relevant education for prosthetists, orthotists, technicians, pedorthists and business managers.

Why Exhibit?

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

- Build your customer base and increase sales by meeting with Owners who actually make the final decisions on purchases.
- Experience face-to-face time with existing customers to answer questions and build new relationships.

- Enjoy sponsored networking opportunities, including an opening reception in the exhibit hall.
- Take advantage of fun traffic-building opportunities.
- Take advantage of education sessions to learn what's happening with Medicare, and other regulatory agencies that affect the success of your product.
- Increase visibility for your company/organization in a targeted market.
- Host a Manufacturer's Workshop and/or Product Preview Theater presentation.
- Speak to AOPA reimbursement experts, who can answer all your O&P coding, reimbursement and compliance questions.
- Hear from top researchers and clinicians to learn what products and support is needed from manufacturers.
- Participate in key education programs and plenary sessions.

Who Attends?

Access to key Decision Makers

O&P Practitioners, pedorthists, physicians, technicians, fitters, students, educational instructors, facility owners, marketing personnel, physical therapists, residents, office managers, billing specialists, occupational therapists, researchers, engineers, manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of O&P products and services.

What you will Get?

As an exhibitor you will receive:

- 24 hour perimeter security guard service.
- FREE breakfast and lunch.
- Exhibitor Service Kit—Exhibitors will receive two sets of information. The first will be the Exhibitor Confirmation Packet that contains your booth assignment, payment confirmation, and additional materials. The second set of information is the Exhibitor Service Kit which is an online guide provided by Freeman Decorating that includes all information and order forms you need to plan a successful trade show event; to include shipping information, booth rental, electric and internet needs.
- Exhibitor Newsletters—provide you with up to date information regarding the show.
- Complimentary exhibitor company listing on the National Assembly website, O&P Almanac, show APP and 2015 National Assembly Preliminary Program.
- Opening night reception for all attendees held in the exhibit hall
- Post-event registration mailing list of all National Assembly attendees.
- Two exhibitor full conference badges (per 10x10 exhibit space) which include: admission to all education sessions, CE credits, meeting materials, social functions, and lunch tickets.
- Private lounge area exclusive to exhibitors.
- 1 hour access to exhibit hall prior to exhibit hall opening each day

Sign up today to exhibit at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly!

Sign Up for the Mastering Medicare Webinar: Find Success: Tips, Strategies and Understanding the Appeals Process

February 11, 2015, 1:00-2:00 PM

Learn the ins-and-outs of the five levels of the Medicare appeals process, including what type of claims can and cannot be appealed. Find out the best way to craft a successful agreement to ensure success in your appeal.

The webinar will focus on navigating the curves of the appeals process, and explain why it's an important part of your business operation. An AOPA expert will address the following issues during the webinar:

- The five levels of appeals
- Helpful hints on filing appeals
- Strategies to achieve a successful appeal
- Evaluating the necessary information to include in an appeal
- What type of information should and should not be included in an appeal?



AOPA members pay \$99 (nonmembers pay \$199), and any number of employees may participate on a given line. Attendees earn 1.5 continuing education credits by returning the provided quiz within 30 days and scoring at least 80 percent. [Register now.](#)

Contact Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org or 571/431-0854 with content questions. Contact Betty Leppin at bleppin@AOPAnet.org or 571/431-0876 with registration questions.

Upcoming AOPA Events

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| Feb 9-10, 2015 | <i>AOPA Mastering Medicare: Essential Coding & Billing Seminar</i>
Savannah, GA
Learn more or register online here |
| Feb 11, 2015 | <i>Find Success: Tips, Strategies and Understanding the Appeals Process</i>
Webinar Conference
Learn more or register online here |
| March 23-25 | <i>AOPA Policy Forum</i>
Washington, DC |