



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

April 14, 2015

AOPA Headlines:

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April 2015 O&P Almanac – Get Your CE’s & The Latest News!

[Check out the Latest Issue HERE!](#)

This Just In: The High Price of Appeals | Page 22

A new study finds that both the U.S. government and the O&P community will benefit if the lengthy backlog on administrative law judge hearings is resolved: Orthotists and prosthetists will receive their reimbursements faster, and CMS could save more than \$10 million in mounting interest rates. **[Read More](#)**

A Bill That Rights the Wrongs | Page 32

The 2015 version of the Medicare Orthotics and Prosthetics Improvement Act is an all-encompassing bill with a number of provisions designed to improve conditions for O&P clinicians and patients. Among other issues, the legislation seeks to recognize orthotists'/prosthetists' notes; resolve delays in administrative law judge hearings; and clarify the definition of "minimal self adjustment." **[Read More](#)**

***[Page 18](#)** – Reimbursement Page – Earn 2 CE’s
Read the Column and **[Take Your Quiz Here.](#)***



Enter the Mobility Saves Testimonial Contest for your Chance to Win!

MOBILITY SAVES TESTIMONY CONTEST



Submit your **VIDEO TESTIMONY** to win!

A CHANCE TO
WIN
\$500

The Contest

Become part of an important public relations campaign that proves cost effectiveness for orthotics and prosthetics and perhaps win \$500 just by submitting your testimony.

Why Participate?

- Help patients obtain medically necessary devices
- Support the O&P profession
- Become part of a Major Public Relations Campaign
- Help spread the word that orthotic and prosthetic devices not only restore lives but are cost effective too!
- All entrants will receive a t-shirt
- One (1) Grand Prize Winner (\$500), one (1) Second Place Winner (\$250), and one (1) Third Place Winner (\$100) will be selected.
- All entries must be received by 11:59 PM EST on September 30, 2015

It's as easy as **1•2•3!**

1. Create your video testimony by using your smartphone or video camera.
2. Complete the online entry form at <http://bit.ly/MobilitySavesContest>
3. Upload your video testimony or email video from your smart phone.

Questions?

Contact us at (571) 431-0876 or ymazur@AOPAnet.org.
www.mobilitysaves.org

April is Limb Loss Awareness Month



Each day more than 500 people lose a limb, largely to vascular-related diseases, and 60 percent are preventable. The Amputee Coalition, a national nonprofit based in Manassas, Virginia, is on a mission to increase awareness about those living with limb loss and limb loss prevention by declaring April as Limb Loss Awareness Month.

During the month of April across the United States, amputee support groups, veterans, prosthetists, rehabilitation centers and those with limb loss will be participating in a number of activities in their local areas to raise awareness.

“More than 2 million Americans live with limb loss, and that number grows by 185,000 each year,” said Susan Stout, Amputee Coalition president & CEO. “Our goals for Limb Loss Awareness Month are to heighten public awareness about limb loss and increase people’s understanding of prevention – especially those most at risk.” If you are interested in a story about amputee adults or children, please contact Abra Hogarth, Director of Communications, at 703-330-1699, ext 8104 or ahogarth@amputee-coalition.org.

Please join the Amputee Coalition on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for real stories from real people with limb loss.

Don't Miss Out on the Webinar Series!

Monthly Webinar Series

What is it? This is Regulatory and Business education that you can count on. No one in the O&P profession knows the ins and outs of Medicare, coding, billing or VA contracting like AOPA. [Sign up](#) for all 2015 Webinars for only \$990 for members... that's 2 free webinars! If you missed one, we will send you the recording. The monthly Webinars are a great way to bring your staff together for lunchtime learning by AOPA experts.

January 14	Fill In the Blanks: VA Contracting and the New Template
February 11	Tips, Strategies and Understanding the Appeals Process
March 11	Who Gets the Bill: A Look at Medicare Inpatient Billing
April 8	Lower Limb Prosthesis Policy: Learn the Policy Inside and Out
May 13	The New Player in Town: Understand the RAC Contract
June 10	Building a Medicare Approved Compliance Plan
July 8	Who's on First? Medicare as a Secondary Payer
August 12	OTS vs. Custom Fit: The True Story
September 9	Prior Authorization, How Does it Work
October 14	Understanding the LSO/TLSO Policy
November 11	Make a Good Impression: Marketing Yourself to Referrals
December 9	Bringing in the New Year: New Codes and Changes for 2016

Stay in the Know: Subscribe to AOPA's Take!

AOPA has designed this blog to keep you readily informed with important issues and news that arise within the O&P world. This is a more immediate avenue to find the latest updates.



AOPA's Take is available at no charge to all members of the O&P community and subscribing is simple. Go to www.aopastake.org and click on the subscribe button. Fill out a few fields and you're in! Welcome to *AOPA's Take*.....Where you go when you need to know!

2015 AOPA National Assembly

The 98th Annual AOPA National Assembly will be held October 7-10 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. Located directly on San Antonio's famous Riverwalk, you will enjoy this beautiful, historic city. Whether you choose a leisurely stroll, or a ride on one of the riverboats, take time to see San Antonio's famous Riverwalk with the many shops, restaurants, nightlife, dining options, museum along the way.

With over a 100 abstracts submitted from the call for papers announcements—the scientific program is expected to be one of the best ever. Individual workgroups representing orthotics & prosthetics, Pedorthics, Business and Technical Education are busy organizing the education program with a goal of releasing the online version of the preliminary program mid-May.

Registration will open in early-May, but you can start planning ahead by making your hotel reservation at the Grand Hyatt by visiting <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/2015AOPA> or calling 888-421-1442.

To get the most of your trip to San Antonio, we have provided four easy steps to make the most of your trip to San Antonio and help you learn more about what interests you most.

Go to VisitSanAntonio.com to sign up for San Antonio's official newsletter and learn more about what interests you most. Whether it is the Arts, Music, Festivals, Family, Local Attractions or Shopping you will find a calendar of events and local information at VisitSanAntonio.com



1. Request a Free Visitors Guide — Explore arts and culture and learn about local attractions and things to do. [Request your guide](#) here.
2. [Download SAVE coupons](#) from the San Antonio Vacation Experience. Get exclusive deals and discounts.
3. Download a copy of the [River Walk map](#) to see all the great places you will want to visit within walking distance to the convention center.

Questions? Visit www.AOPAnet.org or call AOPA headquarters at (571) 431-0875.

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:

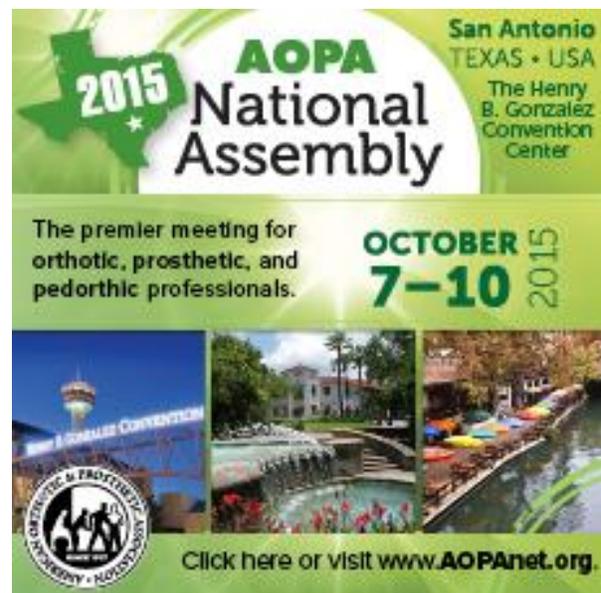
- Build your customer base and increase sales by meeting with Owners who actually make the final decisions on purchases.
- Experience face-to-face time with existing customers to answer questions and build new relationships.
- Enjoy sponsored networking opportunities, including an opening reception in 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? Obtain 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.

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.

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

Upcoming AOPA Events

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| April 13-14, 2015 | <i>Essential Coding & Billing Techniques Seminar</i>
Seattle, WA
Learn more or register online here |
| May 13, 2015 | <i>The New Player In Town: Understand How the RAC Contract Works</i>
Webinar Conference
Learn more or register online here |
| June 1, 2015 | AOPA 2015 National Assembly in San Antonio
<i>Preliminary Program Available; Early Bird Registration Opens</i> |
| June 10, 2015 | <i>Stay out of Trouble: Building a Medicare-Approved Compliance Plan</i>
Webinar Conference
Learn more or register online here |