



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

## **AOPA In Advance SmartBrief**

*Breaking News*

April 30, 2015

### **AOPA Headlines:**

**[Protest of DMEPOS, Home Health and Hospice Contract Award Dismissed](#)**

**[Catch Up on the April 2015 O&P Almanac](#)**

**[NEOPS Completes the C-Leg® 4 Fitting in the United States](#)**

**[It's Not Too Late to Register](#)**

**[Mark Your Calendars](#)**

**[2015 AOPA National Assembly](#)**

**[Exhibit at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly in San Antonio, TX](#)**

**[Upcoming Events](#)**

### **Protest of DMEPOS, Home Health and Hospice Contract Award Dismissed**

While there has not yet been an official announcement from CMS, the status of two formal protests of the contract award to Connolly, LLC to serve as the national RAC contractor for DMEPOS, Home Health, and Hospice claims has been changed to “dismissed” on the Government Accountability Office (GAO) website. The dismissal of the protests clears the way for CMS to finalize the award of the contract and authorize Connolly, LLC to begin work in the near future.

The original contract award was announced on December 30, 2014 but was put on hold after two protests were filed by Performant Recovery, who currently serves as the Jurisdiction A RAC contractor.

While it is yet to be officially determined when Connolly will begin actively auditing Medicare DMEPOS, Home Health and Hospice claims, it is expected that it will occur sometime in the near future, likely in June or July of 2015.

Questions regarding changes to the Medicare RAC program may be directed to Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@aopanet.org](mailto:jmcternan@aopanet.org) or Devon Bernard at [dbernard@aopanet.org](mailto:dbernard@aopanet.org).

[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](#).

**NEOPS Completes the C-Leg® 4 Fitting in the United States**



Intuitive Stance, the patented Inertial Motion Unit and 3D Motion Analysis are tangible ways the C-Leg 4 delivers enhanced stumble recovery and improvements in stance and swing phase control.

Redesigned software greatly shortens the fitting process, and the unique Cock pit smartphone app gives patients a simple way to switch modes and check battery life.

Clinicians will also appreciate reduced system height and the elimination of a special pylon. Finally, an IP67 rating delivers a weatherproof knee. “As the most popular microprocessor knee available today, we anticipate that C-Leg 4 will help deliver the stability people with above-knee limb loss rely on to reclaim their determination,” said Brad Ruhl, President of Ottobock US HealthCare. “I am impressed with the breadth of improvements the C-Leg 4 offers to clinicians and patients alike.”

## It's Not Too Late to Register!



The Amputee Coalition is hosting Limb Loss Education Day (LLED) this Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 in Washington, D.C. The event is being held at the George Washington University Lerner Health and Wellness Center.

### Sessions:

Dr. Terrence Sheehan – *The Team Approach*

Dr. Megan Hosey – *Health and Emotional Benefits of Remaining Active*

Kelly McGaughey, PT, DPT, and Annemarie Orr, OTR/L – *How to Get the Most Out of the Rehabilitation Process*

### Adaptive recreation:

This LLED will be held in conjunction with Össur's Running & Mobility Clinic, presented by the Challenged Athletes Foundation and featuring Bob Gailey! NOTE: Once you have completed and submitted the registration form for the LLED, you will receive a confirmation email with a link for registering for the Mobility Clinic. You must complete the additional registration form from the link in the LLED confirmation email to attend the Mobility Clinic. [Register here.](#)

## Mark Your Calendars

www.aopanet.org

AOPA Mastering Medicare:  
**ESSENTIAL CODING & BILLING SEMINAR**

# MAINTAIN *Your Independence*

**JULY 13-14, 2015**  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Attend the Mastering Medicare seminar to enhance or refresh your coding and billing skills, learn new techniques and stay informed about important Medicare policy changes.

**EARN CREDITS  
14 CE  
PER SEMINAR**

## 2015 AOPA National Assembly

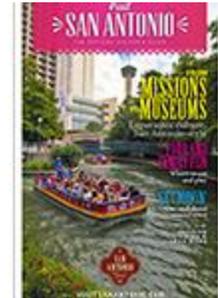
The 98<sup>th</sup> Annual AOPA National Assembly will be held October 7-10 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. Located directly on San Antonio's famous Riverwalk, you will enjoy this beautiful, historic city. Whether you choose a leisurely stroll, or a ride on one of the 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](http://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](http://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](http://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:

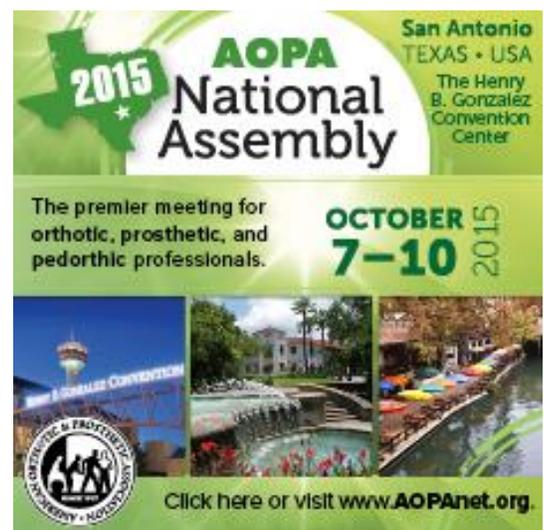
- Build your customer base and increase sales by meeting with Owners who actually make the final decisions on purchases.
- Experience face-to-face time with existing customers to answer questions and build new relationships.
- Enjoy sponsored networking opportunities, including an opening reception in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

<b>Upcoming AOPA Events</b>
-----------------------------

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| May 13, 2015     | <p><i>The New Player In Town: Understand How the RAC Contract Works</i><br/>Webinar Conference<br/><a href="#">Learn more or register online here</a></p>     |
| June 1, 2015     | <p>AOPA 2015 National Assembly in San Antonio<br/><i>Preliminary Program Available; Early Bird Registration Opens</i></p>                                     |
| June 10, 2015    | <p><i>Stay out of Trouble: Building a Medicare-Approved Compliance Plan</i><br/>Webinar Conference<br/><a href="#">Learn more or register online here</a></p> |
| July 8, 2015     | <p><i>Who's on First? Medicare as a Secondary Payer</i><br/>Webinar Conference<br/><a href="#">Learn more or register online here</a></p>                     |
| July 13-14, 2015 | <p>Essential Coding &amp; Billing Techniques Seminar<br/><i>Philadelphia, PA</i><br/><a href="#">Learn more or register online here</a></p>                   |