



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

July 21, 2015

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Update on AOPA Actions for DME MAC LCD Draft Policy

On Thursday, July 16th, the four DME MACs, released their joint proposal for substantial modifications to the Local Coverage Determination and Policy Article applicable to Medicare reimbursement for lower extremity prosthetics. On that same day, AOPA issued an urgent notification to all AOPA members alerting them to this action ([see AOPA's July 16th announcement here](#)).

Already it is clear from O&P professionals that these proposed changes, if adopted in their totality, would almost certainly delay patient access to prosthetic care and reduce the quality of the prosthetic limbs they receive and patient outcomes, AND fundamentally change the payment structure in a way that would threaten the viability of many O&P practices already riddled by excessive and unfair RAC audits and prepayment audits. AOPA is: (a) releasing its comprehensive summary of the proposed LCD and Policy Article, accompanied by an Executive Summary (access [the AOPA summary materials here](#)); (b) has initiated a portal where [AOPA members can express their thoughts](#) with respect to how the proposal could be improved; (c) initiating information to be available for patients so they may understand how these proposals would impact their care; (d) convening its Officers and members of the AOPA Coding & Reimbursement Committee within two weeks to formulate and prioritize responses to the proposal; and (e) activating an easy mechanism for AOPA members to provide comments to the DME MACs on the proposal.

AOPA will be coordinating with the O&P Alliance, and other stakeholder interests to encourage movement toward the most reasonable possible result from the DME MAC proposed revisions to the proposed LCD and Policy Article. The deadline for comments is August 31, 2015. While AOPA will be opening a website connection to make it easier for interested parties to respond

to the proposal, those wishing to write directly to the DME MACs in response to the proposal should submit your comments electronically to the DME MAC medical director at the e-mail address below no later than close of business on August 31, 2015:

[DMAC Draft LCD Comments@anthem.com](mailto:DMAC_Draft_LCD_Comments@anthem.com)

Stacey V. Brennan, M.D., FAAFP
Medical Director, DME MAC, Jurisdiction B
National Government Services
8115 Knue Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46250-1936

The comment process requires a public meeting. A joint DME MAC public meeting will be held on August 26, 2015, from 08:00 AM EDT until 12:00 PM EDT at:

Airport Square Business Park
1304 Concourse Drive
Linthicum, MD 21090

Interested parties from any DME MAC jurisdiction may attend this public meeting. This meeting provides the opportunity for brief oral presentations only. There is no Question and Answer or discussion period as a part of the meeting. In order for oral presentation comments to be considered, they must be presented through the formal comment process. Advance registration is required for attendance at the public meeting and the registrant must indicate whether participating as a presenter or attendee (listen only). [Registration is online.](#)

Read the [complete draft LCD proposal here.](#)

Direct any questions at Joe McTernan at 571/431-0811 or jmcternan@AOPAnet.org.

Amputee Coalition Celebrates National Conference in Tucson

The Amputee Coalition will celebrate its 29th year at the 2015 National Conference, to be held in Tucson, Arizona from July 23 to July 25. This is the largest gathering of people with limb loss and limb difference, who will be present for educational seminars, networking, clinics, adaptive sports, peer group and support group training and social events.



No other event held for the limb loss community is as highly anticipated or well-attended as the Amputee Coalition National Conference. It is the largest gathering of the limb loss community in the country. For more information on the National Conference, click [here.](#)

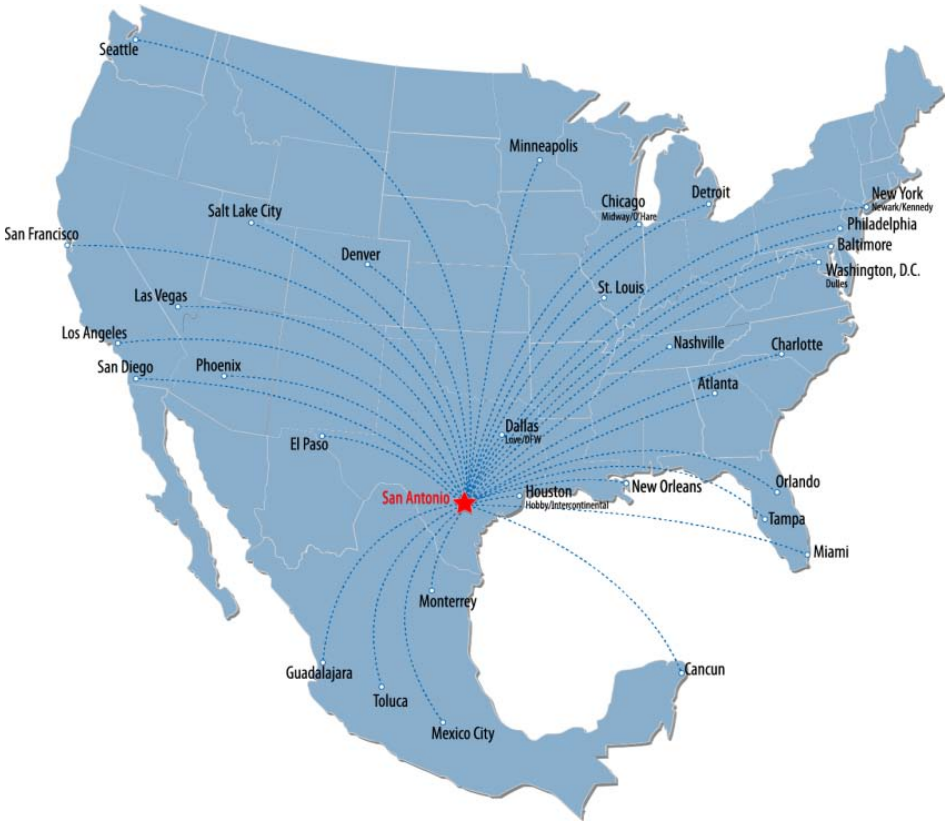
Attend the 2015 AOPA Assembly in San Antonio - It May be a Quick Flight Away!

Did you Know... More than 8 million passengers fly into and out of historic San Antonio each year, traveling to more than 30 non-stop domestic and international destinations on over 13 airlines each day?



A sampling of the number of Daily Direct Flights from Your Home Town Each Day

City	Daily Direct Flights
Atlanta	8
Baltimore	3
Charlotte	3
Chicago	8
Denver	6
Detroit	3
Washington (IAD)	2
Las Vegas	4
Los Angeles	9
Minneapolis	3
St Paul	3
Phoenix	7
San Diego	2
Salt Lake City	2
St Lois	2
Dallas	23
El Paso	3
Houston	14



AOPA has arranged for discounted flights – make sure to [book through Southwest!](#)

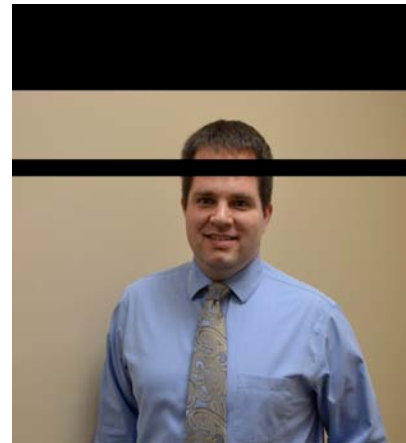
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Questions: Visit www.AOPAnet.org or Contact AOPA at (571) 431-0876 or info@AOPAnet.org

Lawall Prosthetics and Orthotics Inc. Welcome New CPO

Lawall Orthotics and Prosthetics Inc. in Delaware is excited to announce the hiring of Michael Wargo, CPO. He attended Penn State University where he received his Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He was drawn to the prosthetic and orthotic field because he saw an opportunity to help others by combing his love for working with his hands and clinical assessment. Michael received his Masters of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics at the University of Pittsburg. Michael has a passion for providing the highest level of care to all his patients. Lawall believes he will be a great addition to the team.



Call for Papers for OT World

The bi-annual **OTWorld – International Trade Show and World Congress** will once again be held in Leipzig, Germany from **May 3-6, 2016**. This show and congress will attract professional visitors from around the globe including but not limited to prosthetists and orthotists, orthopedic shoemakers, rehabilitation technicians, specialist retailers, engineers, doctors and physiotherapists.

OTWorld 2014 proved its position as the world's leading event in its field with over 20,000 visitors from 80+ countries. They came to view the latest products, ideas & technologies available in the OT/Rehabilitation sector from 548 exhibiting companies.

The interdisciplinary **OTWorld Congress** and trade show run concurrently, offering insight into the newest methods of research, product development and training, via professional development sessions led by industry experts. You are also invited to submit essays on the topics of prosthetics, orthotics, foot & shoe, orthopaedic shoe technology, rehabilitation, rehabilitation technology, sports & sports medicine, as well as an Open Topic ranging from developing countries, material research, measuring technology, adapted technologies, or obesity rehabilitation. For additional information [click here](#). Note the deadline for submission is September 6th and abstracts can only be submitted using the [online form found here](#).



Fun Way to Support AOPA Government Relations Efforts: Wine Tasting & Auction

During the 2015 National Assembly in San Antonio, AOPA will be hosting the 8th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction. Join the fun, the good cause, and add to the continued success of the Wine Tasting & Auction by donating something special today! Please take a look in your wine cellar for that special bottle or bottles of wine, which may be collecting dust, to consider as a donation for the 8th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction.

Don't want to part with your wine? We welcome other items of interest, such as jewelry, wine glasses, artwork, cigars, craft beer, other spirits, etc. You may also make a monetary contribution (from a personal or business account) and one of our personal shoppers will make a purchase on your behalf, and our shoppers do take suggestions!



Please consider donating today! The donation form is available [here](#).



Thomas Jefferson said: "**Good wine is a necessity of life for me.**" and you are a necessity for this event. We cannot make it happen without your help! This exciting event provides attendees with a unique opportunity to mingle, network, learn about and taste a variety of wines, but most importantly raise awareness of and funds for AOPA's Government Relations outreach.

Your special donations are what make this event unique and successful. Your attendance is what makes it fun! At this time we would like to thank the following individuals for their generous donations to the 8th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction:

- Rick Fleetwood
- Joe Martin

Thank you in advance and we look forward to seeing you at the 2015 National Assembly and the 8th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction!

Any questions about making a donation or the auction in general, contact Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org, or (571) 431-0854.

Upcoming AOPA Events

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|----------------|--|
| August 12 | <i>OTS vs. Custom Fit: The True Story</i>
Webinar Conference
Learn more or register online here |
| September 9 | <i>Prior Authorization, How Does it Work</i>
Webinar Conference
Learn more or register online here |
| Oct 7-10, 2015 | <i>AOPA 2015 National Assembly</i>
San Antonio, TX
Learn more or register online here |