



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

July 30, 2015

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Take Action on DME MAC LCD Draft Policy

Over the last 2 weeks, AOPA shared with you the [DME MACs proposal](#) for substantial modifications to the Local Coverage Determination and Policy Article applicable to Medicare reimbursement for lower extremity prosthetics. AOPA reviewed the policy and provided a Comprehensive Analysis, accompanied by an Executive Summary (available [here](#)).

We now have a simple way for AOPA members AND prosthetic patients to take action at www.AOPAvotes.org. We have provided two prewritten letters – one from practitioners and one from patients to send the DME MACs. Patients can read the summary of how the policy changes would affect their care at www.MobilitySaves.org/blog.

Visit www.AOPAvotes.org to send a letter and share with all your patients. The comment period ends August 31, 2015 and you can also send your customized comments to [DMAC Draft LCD Comments@anthem.com](mailto:DMAC_Draft_LCD_Comments@anthem.com) and make sure to reference “LCD Draft: Lower Limb Policy” in the subject line.

AOPA members should also watch their mailbox – AOPA is sending postcards for patients to submit comments.

**Take
Action!**

AOPA Honors Thomas V. DiBello, CO as 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



AOPA will honor Thomas V. DiBello, CO with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2015 National Assembly in San Antonio, TX. This award is bestowed on individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the orthotics and prosthetics profession.

Charles Dankmeyer, AOPA's President explained "*Mr. DiBello is this year's honoree because of his relentless passion for patient care, O&P education and advancing the profession. Tom is a true visionary who has made a huge impact through his leadership at the Academy, AOPA, O&P educational programs, and his other volunteer work here and abroad.*"

Mr. DiBello is the Gulf Coast Regional Director at Hanger Clinic, Honorary Adjunct Faculty at Texas Women's University, and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Baylor College of Medicine Masters Program on Orthotics and Prosthetics. He is past president of both AOPA and the Academy.

Mr. DiBello will be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly in San Antonio, TX, at the General Session on Saturday, October 9 at 7:30 am.

Are you Subscribed to *AOPA's Take?* Its Where You Go When You Need to Know

AOPA has a long history of leading the way in ensuring that members of the O&P community have the tools to make sound decisions regarding the direction of their businesses. *AOPA's Take* continues this history as the best source for immediate access to breaking news that affects your O&P business. While AOPA has established lines of communication through traditional venues such as the *O&P Almanac* and the *SmartBrief* newsletter, *AOPA's Take* follows a different approach that will focus on specific issues, in a timely manner that are significant today, right now. Communication through *AOPA's Take* is immediate, keeping you informed of new information and developments as they happen.



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!

CMS Conducting Survey on MACs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are conducting a [MAC Satisfaction Indicator \(MSI\) survey](#), that should take about 10 minutes to complete. The survey is measuring your satisfaction with your MAC.



Symposium: Serve your Patients with Limb Deficiencies Better

AOPA National Assembly
October 7-10, 2015
San Antonio, Texas

Attendees earn over 35 CE Credits



Including a Prosthetic Sports Symposium: Wrestling with Limb Deficiencies

This inspirational and motivational symposium focuses on real-life experiences from an amputee wrestler, a practitioner and a physician. Help your patients gain the confidence to succeed in their personal goals by providing the most appropriate prosthetic care.

	<p>Michael Baria, MD is a physiatrist in Rochester, Minnesota. He earned his medical degree at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and has been in practice for 4 years. Dr. Baria's clinical interests include Musculoskeletal and sports medicine (with special interest in endurance athletes and combat sports), musculoskeletal ultrasound, and electromyography. His research interests include Sports medicine and diagnostic ultrasound for neuromuscular disorders.</p>
	<p>John R. Fergason, L/CPO, is the Chief Prosthetist at the Center for the Intrepid at San Antonio Military Medical Center. He received his prosthetic-orthotic training at UCLA and Northwestern University. He currently is adjunct faculty for the Army Baylor Doctoral Physical Therapy Program and the UT Southwestern Prosthetics-Orthotics Program. He has lectured extensively on all topics in lower limb prosthetics, has many peer reviewed articles, and has authored multiple book chapters. While at Brooke Army Medical Center, he and his staff continue to treat the most complex patients seen as a result of battlefield injury.</p>
	<p>Nick Ackerman, CPO currently works as a prosthetist for American Prosthetics and Orthotics. Despite losing both legs below the knees to an infection when he was 18 months old, Ackerman was determined to be just like the rest of the kids. That determination led him to take up wrestling when he was in third grade, and he became one of the top high school wrestlers in Iowa. He won the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championship in 2001 - the first athlete to become a national champion without the use of his legs.</p>

[Clinical Education Program](#)

[Preview the Preliminary Program](#)

[Register online](#)

[General Information](#)

[Hotel Reservations](#)

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

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.

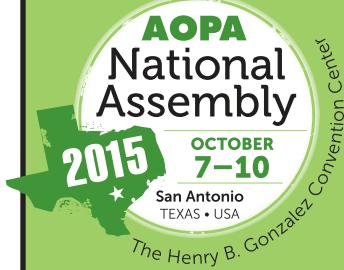
OTWorld 2014 proved its position as the world's leading event in its field with over 20,000 visitors from 80+ countries. They came to view the latest products, ideas & technologies available in the OT/Rehabilitation sector from 548 exhibiting companies.

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](#).



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 |



Topgolf Event

Fun for Golfers and Non-Golfers Alike



TOPGOLF is the premier golf entertainment complex where the competition of sport meets your favorite local hangout. This event promises to be great fun for golfers and non-golfers alike. Come join us on Friday, October 9, during the AOPA National Assembly. Support two great causes, AOPA's Capitol Connection and OPAF & The First Clinics. Strengthen OPAF's efforts and the legislative, research and education efforts of the Capitol Connection; challenge yourself, colleagues, customers, and family to a new kind of golf experience that combines competition with entertainment. Players hit micro-chipped golf balls at targets on an outfield. Just picture a larger-than-life-sized outdoor dartboard—but for golf. And for a little friendly rivalry, the high-tech balls instantly score each shot's accuracy and distance. Tickets are \$125 each and include:

- Club rental
- Transportation via luxury motor coach
- Great food
- Two drink tickets for alcoholic beverages and unlimited non-alcoholic beverages



TOPGOLF is the premier entertainment and event venue with fun point-scoring golf games for all skill levels, upscale bar food and drinks, great music and more!