



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

## AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

September 1, 2015

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## The LCD Draft Policy Comment Period is Now Closed

The comment period for the LCD Draft policy has closed as of August 31, 2015 and AOPA has some updates to share. Through [www.AOPAvotes.org](http://www.AOPAvotes.org) and the patient postcards mailed to members, more than 5070 patients and practitioners have sent letters to the Medicare contractors and Congress.

The well-attended patient rally at HHS that AOPA organized and our meeting with CMS are detailed [here](#) if you missed the update last week.

Former Senator Bob Kerrey, amputee, shares his opinion of the policy on ["The Hill."](#)

To the right is the AOPA ad relating to Medicare prosthetic cost-cutting running in Washington Post and The Hill over a period starting Sunday, August 23 through Tuesday, September 9. See the full ad and watch the video running on news programs in Washington, DC on [MobilitySaves.org](http://MobilitySaves.org).

To date, we have had over 400 news articles featuring coverage of the LCD policy, the patient rally, and/or our meeting with CMS. [See the updated list here.](#)

**THE ONLY THING BETWEEN AMPUTEES AND A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE IS MEDICARE'S GLASS CEILING.**

**Medicare's glass ceiling moves today's prosthetic devices out of reach for most amputees.**

Decades of technological advancements mean that new levels of mobility, health and independence are possible for amputees. The only problem? Medicare. The federal government's policy of high ceilings that a patient will qualify for these devices, and new regulations, will make the situation **worse, not better.**

Of Medicare's 50 million to 60 million eligible amputees, prosthetic devices cover only 10% of the total. In a new study, those patients who receive timely prosthetic and orthotic devices can actually save Medicare money: our patients who are not treated – more than \$20 million was saved for Medicare in 2014 alone.

Who has been impacted that means expensive cost? In most cases, it is the amputees who have been given the prosthetics that cost them the most and healthy. And now Medicare and its contractors are planning to further restrict who can get these better prosthetic limbs.

**10.3%** never called during claims review process and only avoided Medicare restrictions on a spin using that least thorough of reach of most providers. Even though it is known these devices provide a better quality of life.

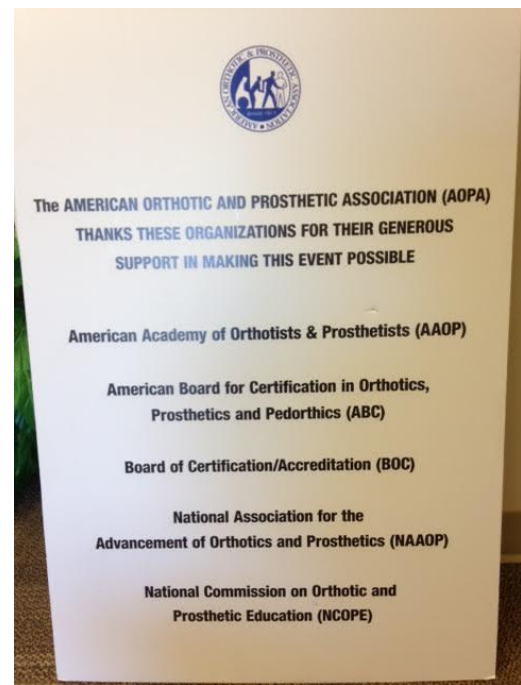
It's an outrage that Medicare would deny prosthetic for the growing number that comes with prosthetics.

To learn more about the Medicare study and what you can do to help these patients, visit [mobilitysaves.org](http://mobilitysaves.org).

What's Your Medical Backstory?	Medicare Part A	Medicare Part B	Medicare Part D
Power E.R. Admissions?	✓	✓	✓
Power District Billing Benefits?	✓	✓	✓
Power District Waiver?	✓	✓	✓
Power Hospice Admissions?	✓	✓	✓

\*Source: Medicare study of access when Standard Analysis Plan (SAP) 2013 for Medicare beneficiaries who received DME services from January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2014 and received prosthetic devices according to current Medicare policies.

Some photos from the Patient Rally:



### New Limitations on Post Payment Reviews/Audits

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has recently issued a directive to its contractors handling appeals of post payment audits/reviews. CMS has informed the Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) and the Qualified Independent Contractors (QIC) that during the redetermination and reconsideration levels they may only “limit their review to the reason(s) the claim or line item at issue was initially denied”. This means that the contractors may no longer deny your claim for a different reason upon further review of the claim, they may only review and make a decision based on the initial issue at hand.

This new directive and instructions applies to redetermination and reconsideration requests received by the DME MAC or QIC on or after August 1, 2015 and will not be applied retroactively. The new directive also only applies to post-payment reviews and not pre-payment reviews. You may view [the MLN Matters article](#) which outlines these new directives here. Questions? Contact Joe McTernan at [jmcterna@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jmcterna@AOPAnet.org) or Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org)

## Register for the AOPAversity Webinar: Prior Authorization: How Does it Work?

**September 9, 2015, 1:00-2:00 PM EST**

Have you ever wondered why Medicare doesn't have a Prior Authorization Process? If Medicare did have a Prior Authorization process, what would it look like? Would prior authorization cure all my audit problems? Did you ever wonder why Medicare doesn't have a Prior Authorization Process? If Medicare did have a Prior Authorization process, what would it look like? Would prior authorization cure all my audit problems? Join AOPA for the September webinar "Prior Authorization: How Does it Work?" to learn the answers to all these questions and more as we review the proposed legislation that would implement prior authorization for orthotic and prosthetic service.

Topics for discussion will include the following:

- Learn the status of the Prior Authorization legislation
- Learn how the Prior Authorization Process could work
- Learn the pros and cons of the Prior Authorization process
- Learn about conditional payments



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 online](#). Contact Ryan Gleeson at [rgleeson@AOPAnet.org](mailto:rgleeson@AOPAnet.org) or 571/431-0876 with questions.

## Support AOPA Government Relations Efforts: Wine Tasting & Auction

During the 2015 National Assembly in San Antonio, AOPA will be hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting & Auction!

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

### DME MAC Update Session at the National Assembly



Two representatives from each of the four DME MACs will be available in the exhibit hall to answer your questions throughout the AOPA National Assembly. Additionally they will participate in two separate panel discussions:

**2013-2014 CERT Errors and Medicare Documentation Requirements**  
**Stacie McMichel, CERT Coordinator/Provider Outreach & Education Consultant**  
**Friday, October 9 ~ 2:00 - 3:15 PM**

This session will discuss the most frequent documentation errors identified in an audit. Attendees will learn the difference between technical and complex medical review documentation errors, references to the applicable Medicare guidelines associated with the errors and receive tips on best practices to avoid and decrease repetitive errors on future claims. Jurisdiction specific announcements will also be provided

**DME MAC Medicare Update Session - Saturday, October 10 ~ 11:00 - 11:30 AM**

Representatives from the four DME MACs will outline recent Medicare updates and changes to the Medicare program that affect DMEPOS suppliers. Jurisdiction-specific announcements will also be provided and there will be time for questions at the end of the session.

**TODAY is the last day to take advantage of the early-bird discount. [Register Now and Save \\$100!](#)**

## Exclusive Offer for AOPA in Advance Readers



For information about the show, scan the QR code with a code reader on your smartphone or visit [www.AOPAnet.org](http://www.AOPAnet.org).

**O&P Almanac** readers are invited to tour the AOPA National Assembly Exhibit Hall on Saturday, October 10 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. You may choose to pre-register online at [bit.ly/aopa2015](http://bit.ly/aopa2015) and use the promocode OPALMANAC (Be sure to select the registration category, Exhibit Hall Only and then Saturday, Oct. 10) or you may choose to bring the adjacent coupon to the registration desk in San Antonio. Earn 3 ABC Category II and 5 BOC Category II CE credits for completing the Exhibit Hall form onsite.

**Valid for Admission** to the AOPA National Assembly Exhibit Hall Only on Saturday, October 10, 2015  
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center  
San Antonio, Texas

free admission **\$75 Value** free admission

Cannot be combined with any other offer. Valid on Saturday, October 10 only

Compliments of **O&P ALMANAC**

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## Upcoming AOPA Events

- September 1, 2015      Last Day of *Early Bird Registration* for the 2015 National Assembly  
[Learn more or register online here](#)
- September 9, 2015      *Prior Authorization, How Does it Work?*  
Webinar Conference  
[Learn more or register online here](#)
- October 7-10, 2015      *AOPA 2015 National Assembly*  
San Antonio, TX  
[Learn more or register online here](#)