



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

## AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

April 21, 2016

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### **AOPA Policy Forum Kicks Off Next Week**

**[Register Now for the 2016 Policy Forum and O&P Legislation-Writing Congress!](#)**  
**[New Format - New Program](#)**

Join us April 26 -27, 2016 in Washington, DC for a new Policy Forum experience. Former Senator Robert Kerrey will preside over a special session to write a simple one-to-two page *piece of legislation* to take to the Hill to educate your lawmakers. This is your opportunity to make your voice heard and participate in a landmark event.

*Why should you attend? Educate lawmakers on the issues that are important to YOU:*

- 1. Participate in the 2016 O&P Legislation-Writing Congress - make your voice heard.*
- 2. Ensure O&P has fair representation in any O&P LCDs*
- 3. Make sure Prior Authorization is administered fairly*
- 4. Help Curb RAC audit practices that harm honest providers and don't prevent fraud*
- 5. Prevent the Expansion of Off-the-Shelf Orthoses and Competitive Bidding*

6. Showcase the value of O&P professionals as health providers by simply sharing a personal story how O&P restores lives and saves money.

Learn more and register now.

Meet Our 2016 Policy Forum Sponsors!

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## Deadline Next Week for AOPA's Pilot Grant Proposals

The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association is proud to announce a [Request for Pilot Grant Proposals](#) in sixteen potential areas of Orthotic and Prosthetic (O&P) research including an open topic. For 2016-2017 the association is seeking proposals for one-time grants in amounts up to \$15,000 for one year. The leadership of AOPA, working in conjunction with the Center for Orthotic and Prosthetic Learning and Outcomes/Evidence-Based Practice (COPL) and its Board of Directors comprised of representatives from eight leading O&P organizations recognizes that there is a modest amount of original evidence-based or outcomes research in orthotics and prosthetics. Consequently, AOPA is interested in funding original pilot research that will lead to larger trials that may qualify for government or other research funding support in the following areas:

Areas for submission are:

- a) Demonstration of multi-site coordination of P&O clinical outcomes data collection with emphasis on data consistency and quality
- b) Quality of Life, Wellness, Patient Satisfaction and/or Outcomes Studies of Patients Who Have Received O&P Care vs. Those Who Have Not
- c) L0631 bracing—Performance and Outcomes Data That Differentiate Patient Results from What Could be Achieved with an OTS Orthosis that is Provided without any Fitting, Trimming or Clinical Care?
- d) TLSO/LSO: Utilization and comparative effectiveness of TLSO/LSO. Pre and post-operative use
- e) AFO/KAFO: Utilization and comparative effectiveness of custom vs. OTS AFOs and KAFOs. Investigation and analyses of patients who receive custom orthosis subsequent to OTS AFO fitting.
- f) Microprocessor Controlled Knee and Ankle Joints – Safety Benefits for Non-Variable Cadence (K-1, K-2) Ambulators
- g) Does Restricted Access for K-1 and K-2 to Hydraulic Controls Adversely Impact Patient Safety?
- h) Efficacy of custom vs. OTS relating to clinical outcome, analyses of providers credential
- i) Functional Impacts of Vacuum-Assisted Socket Suspension Systems
- j) Outcomes Measures, Evaluation of Clinical Benefit, and Quality of Life Metrics Related to Orthotic Management (Note: Submissions Should be Pathology and/or Condition Appropriate, e.g. Stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Polio, OA)
- k) Orthotic Management of Osteoarthritis
- l) Alignment (tuning) of Ankle Foot Orthoses in the Cerebral Palsy population, measured outcome.
- m) Stance Control Knee Ankle Foot Orthoses, Clinical Application and Measured Outcome.
- n) Socket Interface: Methods for Measuring Quality of Socket Fit and Alignment
- o) Sockets: Methods for Measuring Proper Socket Fit and Alignment
- p) Open Topics – Beyond the Above Priorities, Top Quality Clinical O&P Research Topics Considered

AOPA and COPL will give preference to grants that address evidence-based clinical application in orthotics and prosthetics. Please post this RFP and share it with your colleagues. **The deadline for proposals is April 30, 2016.** [Read the full eligibility and application process.](#)

## Pre-Payment Probe Review for LSO/TLSOs

The Jurisdiction D Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractor (DME MAC) Noridian recently announced the start of a prepayment probe review for all LSOs and TLSOs. The purpose of the review is to determine the possibility, based on the DME MAC's data analysis, of a potential problem area.

If contact by Noridian with an *Additional Documentation Request* (ADR) letter, please don't ignore the letter. Respond to the ADR with all the documentation requested including but not limited to:

- Initial order & the Detailed Written Order (DWO)
- Medical records from (physician, hospital, SNF, OT, PT, etc.) that support the medical necessity
- Documentation to support the custom fitted or off the shelf orthosis code billed (if applicable)
- Proof of delivery (POD)
- A copy of the PDAC verification, if required
- Any other supporting documentation you feel is relevant.

Questions? Contact Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jmcternan@AOPAnet.org) or Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org).

## CMS Announces Update to Interest Rate for Medicare Overpayments and Underpayments

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that effective April 19, 2016, the interest rate that will be applied to Medicare overpayments and underpayments will be 10.00%, representing an increase of 0.25% since the last quarterly update. Federal regulations require the Medicare interest rate to be adjusted quarterly based on information published by the Treasury Department.

Questions regarding this issue 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).

## CMS Finalizes Definition of Orthotics & Prosthetics in the Uniform Glossary of Medical Terms

CMS has finalized an update to the *Uniform Glossary of Medical Terms* that included the revision to the definition of the term "orthotics and prosthetics" that were suggested by both AOPA and the O&P Alliance. This document, which was established through provisions of the Affordable Care Act, is intended to provide guidance to private insurance companies when defining and establishing coverage for essential health benefits. Both groups suggested that the definition no longer include the term "due to breast cancer" when defining external breast prosthesis as part of the larger definition of the term "orthotics and prosthetics." AOPA is pleased that its suggested revision was considered and accepted by CMS and the other federal agencies tasked with maintain the Uniform Glossary of medical Terms.

The new definition of "orthotics and prosthetics":

Leg, arm, back, and neck braces, and artificial legs, arms, and eyes, and external breast prostheses incident to mastectomy. These services include: adjustments, repairs, and replacements required because of breakage, wear, loss, or a change in the patient's physical condition.

[Read more about the comments submitted by AOPA and the O&P Alliance.](#)

**Join the Coding & Billing Experts in San Antonio**

# AOPAiversity

***The AOPA Coding & Billing Experts are Coming to San Antonio!***

AOPA's next Coding & Billing Seminar will be in San Antonio! Don't miss this opportunity to get the most up-to-date information to advance your O&P practitioners' and billing staff's coding knowledge.

**Join your Colleagues June 13-14 in San Antonio!**

At this seminar you will:

- Receive up-to-date information on Prior Authorization and other Hot Topics
- Ensure your Proof of Delivery meets Medicare Requirements
- Learn how to assess risk areas in your practice
- Learn successful appeal strategies and hints to avoid claim denials
- Practice coding complex devices, including repairs and adjustment
- Attend break-out sessions for practitioners and office staff
- Earn 14 CEs



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**AOPA ESSENTIAL CODING & BILLING SEMINAR**

**June 13-14, 2016**

**Grand Hyatt San Antonio**

**San Antonio, TX**

**Register Now**

## Read the April 2016 Issue of the *O&P Almanac* Online



### Awaiting a Consensus Statement | Page 20

AOPA and the O&P Alliance meet with CMS officials about the next stage for the LCD. [Read More](#)

### Cover Story: Where Science Meets Art| Page 24

Practitioners reveal their most creative solutions for treating pediatric patients. [Read More](#)

### Here Comes the New Guard | Page 34

Today's O&P graduates bring a master's level education – and high career expectations to patient-care facilities. [Read More](#)

Read the [Compliance Corner](#) and [Reimbursement Page](#) – Earn 2 CE's  
Take the [Reimbursement Quiz](#) and the [Compliance Corner Quiz](#).

## Bipartisan Bill That Would Delay Bundled Payments for Joint Replacements Introduced

On Wednesday, March 23, 2106, Rep. Price (R-GA) and Rep. Scott (D-GA) introduced a bipartisan bill that would delay implementation of a Medicare bundled payment program that would pay hospitals a single payment for joint replacement surgeries and any related follow up care for a period of 90 days post-surgery. This program, known as the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CCJR) payment model was finalized in the Federal Register on November 16, 2015 and is scheduled for implementation on April 1, 2016 -- despite significant concerns about the payment model that were submitted by various medical groups and allied healthcare groups such as AOPA through the official notice and comment period.

According to Rep. Price, the bipartisan bill seeks to delay implementation of the CCJR program until January 2018. In an interview, Rep Price stated, "at the very least, a delay in implementation is warranted to give all involved time to better assess, review, and weigh the impact and consequences of this proposal and more adequately prepare so patients are protected."

AOPA believes a delay in implementation is warranted to allow for more analysis of the potential impact of this payment model on all parties involved, especially patients. AOPA's comments on the [CCJR payment model may be found here](#).

## Exhibit at the 2016 National Assembly in Boston, MA!

AOPA is currently accepting exhibit applications for the 2016 AOPA National Assembly, which is due to take place in Boston, MA on September 8-11, 2016. The Hynes 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?

Exhibit 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?**

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.

### **What Will You Get?**

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 2016 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 (*AOPA Members only*).
- 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.
- 1 hour access to exhibit hall prior to exhibit hall opening each day

## Upcoming AOPA Events

- April 26 & 27, 2016      *AOPA Policy Forum*  
Washington, DC  
[Learn more or register here](#)
- May 11, 2016              *When Things Go Wrong: Making Lemonade out of Lemons*  
AOPA Webinar  
[Learn more and register here](#)
- June 13 & 14, 2016      *Coding & Billing Seminar*  
San Antonio, TX  
[Learn more and register here](#)