



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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Breaking News

April 28, 2016

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Highlights from the 2016 Policy Forum and O&P Legislation Writing Congress



The 2016 Policy Forum and O&P Legislation Writing Congress was a huge success! Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive about the new experience of drafting a bill to take to the Hill. Participants broke into groups to discuss their highest priorities for legislation, and after reconvening, the resulting "Prosthetic and Orthotic Care Modernization Act of 2016" focuses on separating O&P from DME, reimbursing only credentialed O&P providers, protecting custom O&P from competitive bidding, and rescinding last year's LCD.

Senator Kerrey took the bill to meet with Senators on Capitol Hill and attendees took the bill to discuss at their meetings with their Senators and Representatives.

Another "big news" story announced at the Policy Forum was the introduction of H.R. 5045 on April 25 by Representatives Renee Ellmers (R-NC) and Janice Schakowsky (D-IL). The bill, "Preserving Access to Modern Prosthetic Limbs Act of 2016" imposes a moratorium until June 30, 2017 on CMS and the DME MAC's implementation of the flawed Local Coverage Determination Policy Article. It would also require CMS to remove the original proposal from the website, which has been a magnet for private insurers like United Healthcare and Cigna to deny certain coverage based on provisions in the since discredited proposal.

The legislation gave AOPA members a terrific story to tell legislators and Congressional staff during the more than 350 appointments arranged on behalf of the 142 O&P professionals that donned their advocacy hats during the April 27th visits to Capitol Hill.

Representative Ellmers was the opening keynote speaker for the Policy Forum and set the stage for the advocacy briefings that followed throughout the afternoon program. Other members of Congress joining her for the briefings were Senator Warner (D-VA) and Representative Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) who is in a hard fought contest for the Illinois Senate seat now occupied by Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL).

The O&P PAC sponsored a lunch for Rep. Ellmers, a reception for Senator Warner and a breakfast for Rep. Duckworth that were all well-attended and provided an opportunity for AOPA members to engage in serious conversations about the challenges facing O&P providers and patients. All three legislators shared their own concerns about the proposed LCD and other restraints imposed by CMS that hinder the most advanced patient care.

[Read the bill written by 2016 AOPA Policy Forum Participants.](#)

[See all the photos from the 2016 Policy Forum.](#)



Sen. Warner (L) with AOPA President Jim Campbell, PhD, CO, FAAOP (R)



Sen. Kerrey with Vinit Asar and Scott Klug of Hanger (L-R)



The O&P Students, attended with support from NCOPE



Rep. Duckworth addressing participants

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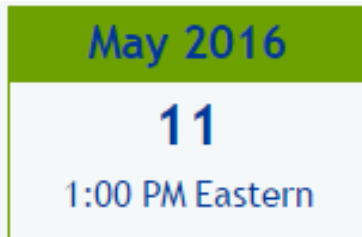
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FOOT

Bill Introduced to Place Moratorium on CMS' LCD Lower Limb Proposal

On April 25, Representative Ellmers (R-NC-02) introduced HR 5045: Preserving Access to Modern Prosthetic Limbs Act of 2016. The bill is “to impose a moratorium on the implementation of a proposed Medicare local coverage determination on lower limb prostheses”. The bill places a moratorium until June 30, 2017 on implementing the July 16, 2015 Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Lower Limb Prostheses (DL33787). The bill also would require that CMS and its contractors remove the policy from their websites, which is necessary because private payors (United Health Care and Cigna) have been adopting provisions included in the LCD. This bipartisan bill was co-sponsored by Reps. Blackburn (R-TN-7) and Schakowsky (D-IL-9). This bill will be discussed during the Policy Forum, where AOPA members will request that their representatives become a co-sponsor.

Contact Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org with content questions.

May 11 Webinar: When Things Go Wrong: Making Lemonade out of Lemons



WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS



Join AOPA for a one hour webinar, **When Things Go Wrong: Making Lemonade out of Lemons**, and earn 1.5 CEs, while learning about how to make the best of frustrating and potentially costly situations. During this webinar, participants will learn what to do in the following scenarios:

- A patient refuses an item/service
- A patient returns an item
- You have a disgruntled patient
- Learn about other instances of when things don't go as planned, and how you can make the best out of each situation

[Register now.](#)

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.

Contact Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org or 571/431-0854 with content questions. Contact Ryan Gleeson at rgleeson@AOPAnet.org or 571/431-0876 with registration questions.

Deadline This 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.

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

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.

Join the Coding & Billing Experts in San Antonio

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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Where else can you get two jam-packed days of reliable, valuable O&P coding and billing information? [Learn more.](#)

Register Now

Upcoming AOPA Events

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| May 11, 2016 | <i>When Things Go Wrong: Making Lemonade out of Lemons</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more and register here |
| June 8, 2016 | <i>Physician Documentation: How to Get It & How to Use It</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more or register here |
| June 13 & 14, 2016 | <i>Coding & Billing Seminar</i>
San Antonio, TX
Learn more and register here |