



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

June 23, 2016

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Jurisdiction A and Jurisdiction B DME MAC Contractors to Transition on July 1, 2016

AOPA would like to remind its members that effective July 1, 2016, claims for services in Jurisdiction A will no longer be submitted to NHIC but rather to Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC who will serve as the new DME MAC contractor for Jurisdiction A. Likewise, claims for services provided in Jurisdiction B will transition from National Government Services to CGS.

While you should be prepared for the transition, detailed information is available on the Noridian website at <https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jadme> as well as on the CGS website at <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/index.html>.

Additional questions regarding the transition may be submitted to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@aopanet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@aopanet.org.

Senate Appropriations Committee Report Incorporates Recommendations to CMS on Draft LCD

As a result of the series of meetings during the Policy Forum involving Senator Kerrey and top members of the Senate and the Finance Committee, and particularly through AOPA Past President Tom Watson's intercession with Senate Majority Leader McConnell, important language relating to the July 2015 draft LCD was inserted into the Committee report which has been prepared to explain the 2017 Senate Labor/HHS Appropriations Bill. This is an important directive to CMS, essentially that in light of reductions in Medicare prosthetic spend over 2012-2014, there seems no necessity for intervention to change the LCD, and instructing CMS to consult with clinicians, patients and prosthetist groups before releasing any new or revised version of the LCD.

The language included in the report is as follows:

"The Committee recognizes that Medicare payments for all prosthetics, and especially the newer advanced technologies, have declined over each of the years 2010-2014. The committee encourages CMS to consult broadly with clinicians, patient groups, and the prosthetics field regarding revisions to the draft Local Coverage Determination, prior to publishing an updated draft policy for public comment."

Last Call for 2016 Performance Operating Survey!

Deadline extended to July 15, 2016!

An important message for AOPA members:

How are you doing? How are your fellow AOPA members doing? How is our industry faring in these constantly changing economic times? Find out how your company stacks up this year!

Benchmarking your company's financial results against your fellow AOPA members is the best way to assess past performance and to continue to tweak current operating strategies to improve your continued business success.

Take a few minutes out of your busy day to complete the 2016 AOPA Operating and Performance Survey. Respond today – the up-to-date survey results will be invaluable to your future planning!



Jim Weber
Chair, Operating Performance Committee
AOPA Vice President

It's **FREE** for AOPA members. Plus you receive a **free** published report (a **\$185 value**), a **free** customized company report (valued at hundreds of dollars), and a **free** Coding Pro Single user edition (**valued at \$425**)!

Go to www.aopa-survey.com or call us at 571-431-0810 for more info.

AOPA Updates its Joint Statement on Physical Characteristics of Orthopedic Shoe Inserts

In 2013, AOPA, in conjunction with the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) and the Pedorthic Footcare Association (PFA), developed a joint statement on the interpretation of HCPCS codes L3000, L3010, L3020, and L3030.

The joint statement was presented to AOPA leadership at the time and was approved for publication. On May 13, 2016 a follow up meeting of the three organizations was held and a slight revision to the joint statement was proposed with the understanding that the leadership of the three organizations would have the opportunity to review and approve the revised document.

The revised statement has been reviewed and approved by AOPA leadership and is available for your [review here](#).

Renewed RAC Activity Reported

AOPA has recently received reports of increased Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) activity focusing on the provision of ankle foot orthoses, especially in Jurisdiction A and Jurisdiction D. While the existing RAC contractors have been authorized to begin new audits for some time now, pending the competition for and award of the single, national DMEPOS RAC contract, these reports represent the first significant RAC activity focused on O&P providers since the re-authorization took place.

It is important for AOPA members to ensure that the RAC contractors are playing by the rules, especially when it comes to the limits to the number of Additional Documentation Requests (ADRs) that can be made against a single tax identification number.

Current regulations limit the number of ADR requests for suppliers to 10% of all claims submitted for the previous calendar year, divided into eight periods, each period representing 45 days. In addition, for suppliers who bill under specialty codes identifying them as O&P providers (51, 52, 53, 55, 56, or 57) the limit on ADR requests is capped at 10 ADR requests every 45 days, per Tax ID.

AOPA is preparing educational resources to help prepare its members for continuing challenges of RAC audits. In the meantime, if you have received ADRs related to RAC audits, it is imperative that you challenge any ADR requests that exceed the limits discussed above.

Questions regarding this issue may be directed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@aopanet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@aopanet.org.

Learn More about Lower Limb Treatment Options from Varying Perspectives



Featured Programming – Lower Limb Treatment Options-Views from an Orthopedic and a Vascular Surgeon’s Perspective

Two common groups making referrals to orthotists and prosthetists are vascular surgeons and orthopedic surgeons. In this session, a vascular surgeon, orthopedic surgeon, physical therapist/CPO, and leading researcher review respective clinical practices, drawing from available evidence and empirical clinical experience leading to healed wounds and maximum function. The O&P practitioner will leave with a better understanding of working criteria for making surgical decisions.

Meet the Panel:



Michael Dillon, PhD, BPO (Hons) is a Senior Lecturer in P&O at La Trobe University, and an Honorary Research Fellow at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Dr. Dillon’s research has focused on the outcomes for people with lower limb amputation; in particular, people with partial foot amputation.



John Femino, MD is an orthopedic surgeon, currently serving as Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.



Luigi Pascarella, MD is a practicing Vascular Surgeon, currently serving as Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.



Donald Shurr, PT, CPO is Director of Education and Director of Special Projects for American Prosthetics & Orthotics and an adjunct lecturer in physical therapy education at the University of Iowa.

[**Learn More or Register Now**](#)

Join the Coding & Billing Experts in Las Vegas!

The AOPA Coding & Billing Experts are Coming to Las Vegas!

AOPA's next Coding & Billing Seminar will be in Las Vegas! 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 November 14-15 in Las Vegas!

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



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

Register Now

Attend the 9th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction



During the 2016 National Assembly AOPA will be hosting the 9th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction, on Friday, September 9th from 6:00-8:00 PM. 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. Let's keep the tradition of success alive and make the 9th Annual Wine Tasting & Auction the best ever.

Please join the fun, the "good cause" and add to the continued success of the Wine Tasting & Auction by donating today! ***Your special donations are what make this event unique.*** Your

donation may be one of the gems of your cellar, jewelry, artwork, wine glasses, a bottle of your favorite spirit, cigars, etc. We also have a team of personal shoppers who can locate that perfect item for you if you would prefer to make a monetary donation.

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

Thank you in advance and we look forward to seeing at the 2016 National Assembly and the 9 Annual Wine Tasting & Auction.

Questions? Contact [Devon Bernard](#) via email or at (571) 431-0854.

<p style="text-align: center;">Jurisdiction D DME MAC Publishes Results of Pre-Payment Review of Ankle Foot Orthoses, Knee Orthoses, and Spinal Orthoses</p>

Noridian, who serves as the Jurisdiction D Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractor (DME MAC), has released the most recent quarterly results of its ongoing pre-payment review of claims for several codes.

For AFOs described by HCPCS codes L1960, L1970 and L4360: from December 2015 through March 2016, a total of 1008 claims were reviewed; 855 of which were denied. This error rate varied for each code. The L1960 had an error rate of 69%, the L1970 had an error rate of 70%, and the L4360 had an error rate of 99% (484 out of 488 claims were denied). Based on these results Noridian will continue its pre-payment reviews for codes L1960, L1970 and L4360.

The DME MAC noted that common denial reasons included a lack of proof of delivery documentation, failure to include documentation to show “substantial” modifications were made to the custom fitted item (L4360), documentation was not received in response to the ADR, and insufficient documentation to establish a need for a custom fabricated item (L1960 and L1970). You may view the full results of the quarterly review [here](#).

Noridian, has also released the most recent results of its ongoing pre-payment review of claims for L1833 (knee orthosis, adjustable knee joints (unicentric or polycentric), positional orthosis, rigid support, prefabricated, off-the-shelf). From September 2015 through December 2015, a total of 627 claims were reviewed, 607 of which were denied for an overall claim error rate of 96%.

Noridian noted that claims were denied due to a failure to respond or a late response to additional documentation requests (which will result in an automatic denial), the submission of an invalid proof of delivery, a missing/incorrect ICD-10 code, and documentation that did indicate the patient is ambulatory (as sometimes required by policy). You may view the full results of the review [here](#). Based on the results, Noridian will continue its pre-payment review for code L1833.

For spinal orthoses described by HCPCS codes L0631 and L0637, from December 2015 through March 2016, a total of 291 claims were reviewed and 492 were denied, a denial rate of 99% for L0631 and 94% for L0637.

The DME MAC provided the following five top reasons for why the claims were denied: Submitted documentation didn't identify the modifications made for the custom fitted brace; Documentation was not submitted in response to the ADR request; Missing or invalid proof of delivery; Documentation didn't meet basic coverage criteria; Brace provided didn't have a PDAC coding

verification (required by policy). Based on the results Noridian will continue its pre-payment review for codes L0631 and L0637. You may view the full results of the review [here](#).

[Read further about the rule and steps your business may need to take.](#)

Upcoming AOPA Events

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| July 13, 2016 | <i>Strategies and Levels: How to Play the Appeals Game</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more and register here |
| August 10, 2016 | <i>The Supplier Standards: Are You Compliant?</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more or register here |
| November 14-15, 2016 | <i>Coding & Billing Seminar</i>
Las Vegas, NV
Learn more and register here |