



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

November 10, 2016

AOPA Headlines:

[AOPA's Post-Election Analysis](#)

[Clarification on DME MAC Joint Statement Regarding C-Leg Billing](#)

[CMS Releases New HCPCS Codes for 2017](#)

[CMS Announces New RAC Contractors](#)

[The First AOPA Coding & Billing Seminar of 2017 is in Nashville, TN!](#)

[Patient Care in the 21st Century](#)

[Call for Papers for the AOPA 2nd World Congress in Las Vegas](#)

[Register for AOPA's 2017 Webinar Series](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

AOPA's Post-Election Analysis

GOP Runs the Table, Trump Wins Presidency, and Maintains Control of Both Senate and House

In an election unprecedented in American history, Donald Trump defied the polls, conventional wisdom and notions of political correctness for a convincing win of the Presidency in the Electoral College, despite a roughly break even in the popular vote. What does it mean for orthotics and prosthetics, and health care more generally?

It is clear that the Affordable Care Act is likely to be repealed. There will need to be a replacement, and it may have several consistent features, for example, no exclusions for pre-existing conditions and maintaining kids on parents' coverage until age 26. But expect the medical device excise tax to be history, as will major subsidies, and any tax on uninsureds. Medicaid will likely be addressed by block grants to states to use as they deem appropriate. Similarly, expect a move toward vouchers in Medicare. We'll have a new CMS leadership, and large amounts set aside for innovations, ACOs and such may go away.

Beyond the Affordable Care Act, health care was not a major issue debated heavily in this election, so beyond these broad issues, what the Trump Administration's health care will look like is not that clear. AOPA's counsel, Alston & Bird, published a general overview, which included the following which we provide with attribution to our counsel's authorship.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP'S HEALTH CARE PROPOSALS

The key issues include: health insurance coverage and costs; Medicaid; Medicare; opioids; prescription drugs; women's reproductive health; mental health; and Zika funding. Almost any significant change below could face challenges in Congress. Below is an overview of President-Elect Trump's proposals.

Donald Trump	
<i>Health insurance coverage and costs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Repeal ACA and eliminate individual mandate * Allow insurance to be sold across state lines * Allow taxpayers to deduct entire health premium * Allow people to enroll in tax-free Health Savings Accounts usable by all family members and inheritable without tax penalty * Require price transparency from all health care providers to enable individuals to shop for the best prices on medical procedures * Protect individuals from premium increases or exclusions due to the preexisting conditions * Enforce immigration laws and restrict visas to reduce healthcare costs * Work with states to establish high-risk pools to ensure access for individuals who have not maintained continuous coverage
<i>Medicaid</i>	* Move Medicaid to block grants for the states
<i>Medicare</i>	* Guarantee enrollees have an income-adjusted contribution toward a plan of their choice with catastrophic protection
<i>Opioids</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Stop inflow of opioids * Invest in heroin addiction treatment
<i>Prescription drugs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Allow drug importation * Allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices
<i>Women's reproductive health</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Allow abortion only to save the life of the woman or in cases of rape and incest; limit access to later term abortions; make the Hyde amendment permanent * Defund Planned Parenthood
<i>Mental health</i>	* Promote reform of mental health programs and institutions to assist families in helping loved ones
<i>Zika funding</i>	* Provide funding for Zika

In terms of specific impact on O&P, perhaps three comments are noteworthy: (1) the only Democratic candidate for the Senate who succeeded in defeating a seated Republican Senator is Senator-Elect Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), who as we all know is a double amputee Iraq war hero who has been a major champion for O&P; (2) President-Elect Trump has emphasized a commitment to improve care for Vets, and our guess is that could well improve the role for private sector contractors and lessen movement toward more

O&P care by VA-employee prosthetists/orthotists; and (3) the threat for competitive bidding being errantly applied to O&P, and the strong reliance on data driven decisions and emphasis on quality and cost effectiveness of care are concepts largely embraced on both sides of the aisle, so we can expect the efforts as well as some battles around these to continue. There will almost certainly be a lame duck session of the old Congress, likely a short one with many remaining issues simply pushed forward to the new President and Congress. However, AOPA has laid a good bi-partisan foundation for possible action on issues around both S.829/H.R. 1530, the Medicare O&P Improvements Act, and the proposed LCD during that lame duck session, the timing and duration of the session permitting.



(AOPA President-Elect Michael Oros, CPO, FAAOP celebrated Senator-Elect Duckworth's win in Chicago last night)

As with any new administration, it will take time for Presidential cabinet and agency appointments to play out, as well as for new health-related Committees in the House and Senate to be settled-in short, it will take a while to determine who key players in the Executive branch and in the 115th Congress will be. AOPA will continue to be a strong advocate for O&P professionals and their patients. Our 2017 AOPA Policy Forum is slated for May 2017, with tentative, but most likely dates being May 23-25. 2017 promises to usher in a brave new world in Washington-mark your calendars for the AOPA Policy Forum, and plan to be part of it!

Clarification on DME MAC Joint Statement Regarding C-Leg Billing

AOPA recently published an article announcing a recent joint statement of the DME MACs and PDACs about proper coding of the Ottobock C-Leg for Medicare beneficiaries. In the article it was not made clear that the joint statement applies to Medicare claims only. While some private insurers elect to follow Medicare policy and guidance closely, they are not required to do so and may choose to develop their own policies and guidance on the correct billing of prosthetic and orthotic devices.

In addition, the version of the AOPA article that was sent via e-mail did not indicate the effective date of the joint statement. The coding guidance in the joint statement applies to Medicare claims with a date of service on or after October 6, 2016.

The complete joint statement from the DME MACs and PDAC may be reviewed by [clicking here](#).

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

CMS Releases New HCPCS Codes for 2017
--

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the new HCPCS codes for 2017, and there were only a few minor changes.

The biggest change was the deletion of the temporary K codes (K0901 & K0902), which became effective on October 1, 2014, to describe off the shelf (OTS) versions of custom fitted knee orthoses described by L1843 and L1845, and their subsequent crosswalk to new permanent L codes (L1851 & L1852). Below is a complete breakdown of the code changes which will be effective for claims with a date of service on or after January 1, 2017.

New Codes

Code	Descriptor
A4467	Belt, strap, sleeve, garment, or covering, any type
A9285	Inversion/eversion correction device
L1851	Knee orthosis (KO), single upright, thigh and calf, with adjustable flexion and extension joint (unicentric or polycentric), medial-lateral and rotation control, with or without varus/valgus adjustment, prefabricated, off-the-shelf
L1852	Knee orthosis (KO), double upright, thigh and calf, with adjustable flexion and extension joint (unicentric or polycentric), medial-lateral and rotation control, with or without varus/valgus adjustment, prefabricated, off-the-shelf

Changes in Code Descriptors

Code	New Descriptor	Old Descriptor
L1906	Ankle foot orthosis, multiligamentous ankle support, prefabricated, off-the-shelf	AFO, multiligamentous ankle support, prefabricated, off-the-shelf

Deleted Codes

Code	Descriptor
A4466	Garment, belt, sleeve or other covering, elastic or similar stretchable material, any type, each
K0901	Knee orthosis (ko), single upright, thigh and calf, with adjustable flexion and extension joint (unicentric or polycentric), medial-lateral and rotation control, with or without varus/valgus adjustment, prefabricated, off-the-shelf
K0902	Knee orthosis (ko), double upright, thigh and calf, with adjustable flexion and extension joint (unicentric or polycentric), medial-lateral and rotation control, with or without varus/valgus adjustment, prefabricated, off-the-shelf

AOPA's Coding and Reimbursement Committee will review the list of changes and provide appropriate comments to CMS. As a reminder registration is open for the December 14, 2016 AOPAversity webinar, [New Codes & What Lies Ahead for 2017](#), which will focus on the changes to the HCPCS codes and any other upcoming Medicare changes which may impact your business in 2017.

Questions regarding the code changes may be directed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org, or Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

CMS Announces New RAC Contractors

As we reported in July, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) placed the activities of the four existing Recovery Audit Contractors (RAC) contractors on hiatus as a result of the upcoming awarding of new RAC contracts. This hiatus was to allow for a smooth transition to the new RAC contractors, including the new single, national RAC contractor that will focus on claims for DMEPOS, Home Health, and Hospice services.

On Monday, October 31 CMS announced the recipients of the new contracts. The Region 5 Contract, the new single RAC for DMEPOS, Home Health and Hospice, was awarded to Performant Recovery, Inc. Performant Recovery previously served as the RAC contractor for Jurisdiction A.

CMS is confident that the awarding of the new RAC contracts “will continue to reduce provider burden, enhance program oversight, and increase transparency in the program.” However, the announcement did not offer any details of the contract award including any timeline for implementation. The full announcement of the contract awards may be found [here](#).

AOPA will continue to monitor the issue and will keep you posted with any new and updated information.

For any questions contact Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

The First AOPA Coding & Billing Seminar of 2017 is in Nashville, TN!

The AOPA Coding & Billing Experts are Heading to Nashville January 23-24, 2017!

AOPA experts provide the most up-to-date information to help O&P Practitioners and office billing staff learn how to code complex devices, including repairs and adjustments, through interactive discussions with AOPA experts, your colleagues, and much more. Meant for both practitioners and office staff, this advanced two-day event will feature breakout sessions for these two groups, to ensure concentration on material appropriate to each group.

Join your Colleagues January 23-24 in Nashville!



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

Register Now

Patient Care in the 21st Century: Visit www.AtlanticProCare.com

A facility's website is the first chance at making an impression with potential patients and referral sources, long before they even walk in the door. Websites increase visibility, credibility, and provide much needed information about the business.

AOPA members are always forward-looking, and we want to recognize members who do something especially well. AOPA would like to share the fine-tuned [website created by AtlanticProCare](http://www.AtlanticProCare.com) in Portland, Maine. Their website features information for patients and providers, including their approach, staff profiles, and other patient resources. The site also features patient and provider testimonials, which provide a compelling case for the service care they provide. AtlanticProCare also started a blog this year, where they include advocacy issues, O&P technology, and other items of interest to O&P professionals and patients. A recent post took readers behind the scenes into their lab. Check it out and get some ideas for your website at www.AtlanticProCare.com.

What makes your business unique? Contact landerson@AOPAnet.org to have your business featured next month!

Call for Papers for the AOPA 2nd World Congress in Las Vegas

**Gain International Recognition * Advance your Career
* Improve Patient Care**

AOPA is seeking high-quality educational and research content for the Second O&P World Congress to be held September 6-9, 2017 at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.



Your submissions, will set the stage for a broad curriculum of high-value clinical and scientific offerings at the 2017 World Congress. All free paper abstracts for the 2017 World Congress must be submitted electronically. Abstracts submitted by e-mail or fax will not be considered. All abstracts will be considered for both podium and poster presentations. The review committee will grade each submission via a blind review process, based on the criteria below and reach a decision regarding acceptance of abstracts.

- Relevance, level of interest in topic
- Quality of Scientific Content
- Quality of Clinical Content

Receive a complimentary one-day registration (or 50% credit towards a full conference registration) when your free paper is selected as a podium presentation. Those presenting more than one Podium Free Paper will receive a Full Complimentary registration. Poster Presenters will receive a 40% discount off their full conference registration.

CLINICAL FREE PAPERS – Health care professionals with an interest in Orthotics, Prosthetics, Pedorthics and related fields wishing to present a Free Paper should submit here to have their abstracts considered for presentation at the 2017 World Congress. A model abstract has been provided with additional information here.

The top scoring papers will compete for the prestigious Thranhardt Award. *Topics of interest include but are not limited to:*

- Additive manufacturing
- Microprocessor components
- Bio-sensors
- Powered joints (O&P Applications)
- Socket designs and socket issues
- Public Health topics related to O and P
- Osseointegration
- New and interesting O and P designs and clinical techniques
- Pediatric O and P
- Scoliosis
- Evidence based practice

SYMPOSIA/INSTRUCTIONAL COURSE – If you are interested in organizing a Symposium or Instructional Course, then please submit here.

TECHNICIAN PROGRAM – If you would like your Technical education paper considered for submission in the Technical Track, please submit your paper here. Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- CAD and/or CAM applications
- The role of the technician in the CAD CAM environment
- The role of the technician in the Additive Manufacturing environment
- New and Cutting edge fabrication techniques and processes

BUSINESS EDUCATION PROGRAM – Are you a seasoned business professional with significant experience in managing an orthotics and prosthetics patient care or manufacturing business? Share your successes at the AOPA hosted World Congress and compete for the prestigious Sam E. Hamontree Business Education Award. The winner of the Hamontree award will take home \$1,000.

Learn more or [submit your business paper here](#).

Contact AOPA Headquarters at (571) 431-0876 or tcarlson@AOPAnet.org with questions about the submission process or the World Congress in general.

Register for AOPA's 2017 Webinar Series

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS



AOPA's 2017 Webinar topics have been announced! Register for the whole series to earn 1.5 credits and get 2 free Webinars! Just \$990 for members and \$1990 for non-members.

January 11- O&P Clinical Documentation: Who Needs to Document and What You Need to Document

February 8 - LSO/TLSO Policy

March 8 - Marketing Your Business

April 12 - Grassroots Advocacy

May 10- Modifiers: What do they mean and when to use them

June 14- Internal Audits: The Why and the How of Conducting Self-Audits

July 12 - Know Your Resources: Where to Look to Find the Answers

August 9 - What the Medicare Audit Data Tells Us & How to Avoid Common Errors

September 13 - ABC Inspections & Accreditation

October 11 - AFO/KAFO Policy

November 8 -Gift Giving: Show Your Thanks & Remain Compliant

December 13 - New Codes & Other Updates for 2018

REGISTER NOW

Questions? Contact rgleeson@AOPAnet.org. Looking for 2016 webinars or individual webinars? [Visit here](#).

Upcoming AOPA Events

November 14-15, 2016 *Coding & Billing Seminar*
Las Vegas, NV
[Learn more and register here](#)

December 14, 2016 *New Codes and What Lies Ahead for 2017*
AOPA Webinar
[Learn more and register here](#)

January 23-24, 2017 *Coding & Billing Seminar*
Nashville, TN
[Learn more and register here](#)