



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

November 29, 2016

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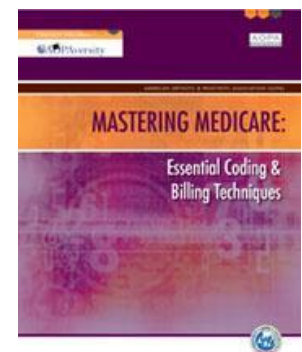
Federal Judge Stops U.S. Department of Labor's Overtime Rule

A federal judge has blocked the implementation of an Obama administration rule that would have extended overtime eligibility to workers earning up to \$47,476. The new law was scheduled to be implemented December 1, 2016. The Labor Department's overhaul to the overtime rule required employers to pay time-and-a-half to employees who worked more than 40 hours a week and earned less than \$47,476 a year. The current law remains in effect, with the threshold at \$23,660. [Read the memo from AOPA's legal counsel.](#)

AOPA's In-Demand Coding & Billing Manuals are for Sale

AOPA will be making a limited supply of the Mastering Medicare: Essential Coding and Billing Techniques Manual, used at AOPA's popular Coding and Billing Seminars, available for purchase.

Manuals can be purchased at \$185 plus \$7 shipping and handling. Get yours while supplies last! [Purchase your copy.](#)



Jurisdiction D DME MAC Releases Pre-Payment Audit Results

Noridian Healthcare Solutions, the current Jurisdiction D DME MAC contractor, has recently released a summary of its pre-payment audit results for knee orthoses described by L1833; ankle foot orthoses described by L1960, L1970, and L4360; spinal orthoses described by L0631 and L0637; and therapeutic shoes described by A5500. The results of audit activity that took place from June through September of 2016 are summarized in the table below.

HCPCS Code	Claim Denial rate
L1833	92%
L1960	76%
L1970	72%
L4360	99%
L0631	100%
L0637	99%
A5500	74%

Common denial reasons for claims included in the pre-payment review were failure to respond to requests for additional documentation (all categories), lack of documentation of the need for a custom fitted orthosis rather than an off the shelf orthosis (knee, spinal orthoses, and walking boots), lack of documentation that supports objective knee instability (knee orthoses), lack of documentation to support the need for a custom fabricated orthosis (L1960 and L1970), and lack of documentation from the certifying physician (therapeutic shoes).

While the high error rate associated with these pre-payment reviews is frustrating, the only way to end a pre-payment review is to successfully pass the pre-payment audit process. While we may believe that the documentation requirements are unreasonable, AOPA members must continue to make every effort to secure the required documentation necessary to support their claims.

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

HHS OIG Releases 2017 Work Plan

Two Longstanding Objectives in Orthotics Remain; No Other/New Prosthetic or Orthotic Items Listed

Each year, the HHS Inspector General releases its annual Work Plan, which lists the topics where the OIG believes there are significant potential items of fraud or other inappropriate or inefficient operations by HHS (including CMS and Medicare) that are costing the government money. This week, the OIG 2017 Work Plan was released.

There are no NEW O&P items listed on the new OIG 2017 Work Plan. However, there are two significant orthotic items for scrutiny that have been part of the OIG Work Plan for the past few years still remain. The following items continue to be highlighted by the OIG:

Orthotic Braces - Reasonableness of Medicare Payments Compared to Amounts Paid by Other Payers

Since 2009, Medicare payments for orthotic braces, including back and knee, have more than doubled almost tripled for certain types of knee braces. We will determine the reasonableness of Medicare fee schedule amounts for orthotic braces. We will compare Medicare payments made for orthotic braces to amounts paid by non-Medicare payers, such as private insurance companies, to identify potentially wasteful spending. We will estimate the financial impact on Medicare and on beneficiaries of aligning the fee schedule for orthotic braces with those of non-Medicare payers. OAS: W-00-17-35756; various reviews Expected issue date: FY 2017

Orthotic Braces - Supplier Compliance with Payment Requirements

Medicare requires that suppliers' claims for DMEPOS be "reasonable and necessary" (SSA § 1862(a)(1)(A)). Further, local coverage determinations issued by the four Medicare contractors that process DMEPOS claims include utilization guidelines and documentation requirements for orthotic braces. Prior OIG work indicated that some DMEPOS suppliers were billing for services that were medically unnecessary (e.g., beneficiaries receiving multiple braces and referring physician did not see the beneficiary) or were not documented in accordance with Medicare requirements. We will review Medicare Part B payments for orthotic braces to determine whether they were medically necessary and were supported in accordance with Medicare requirements. OAS: W-00-17-35749
Expected issue date: FY 2017

These were the subject of an extensive memo to AOPA members last year. AOPA included comments about the OIG's concerns about not being the lowest payer for orthotic bracing. This was accompanied by a memo written by health care consultant, McGuire Woods. [Read AOPA's comments.](#) [Read the McGuire Woods memo.](#)

Read the entire [OIG 2017 Work Plan](#).

Contact your Senator During the Lame Duck Session

Congress is currently in a Lame Duck session while we wait for the new administration to take over. During this time, we actually have a better chance of getting S. 829: The O&P Improvement Act passed than we did previously. This bill would accomplish things like distinguishing O&P health professionals from providers of durable medical equipment, and assuring that prosthetists/orthotists have their patient records/ notes recognized as part of the medical record.

Even if you have already sent a letter - please [send your letter](#) now. Thanks for your advocacy.

Contact your Senator

Contact Lauren Anderson with any questions at 571/431-0843 or landerson@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

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.



AOPA WORLD CONGRESS
LAS VEGAS | SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2017

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

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

REGISTER NOW

Upcoming AOPA Events

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|---------------------|--|
| December 14, 2016 | <i>New Codes and What Lies Ahead for 2017</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more and register here |
| January 11, 2017 | <i>O&P Clinical Documentation: Who Needs to Document and What You Need to Document</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more and register here |
| January 23-24, 2017 | <i>Coding & Billing Seminar</i>
Nashville, TN
Learn more and register here |