



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

November 8, 2016

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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
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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.

Ottobock names Matt Swiggum Regional President and CEO of North America



Ottobock has named Matt Swiggum Regional President and CEO of North America. Swiggum started his nearly 20-year career with Ottobock in 1997 as a sales representative in the Ohio territory and has held numerous leadership positions across all Ottobock business units as Director of Sales for Technical Orthopedics, Business Unit Director for Mobility Solutions, Vice President of Mobility Solutions and most recently Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing for North America.

In his new role, Swiggum will lead all Prosthetic, Orthotic, Mobility Solutions and Business Services activities across North America with the goal of bringing world-class innovative products and services to market and ensuring a customer centric approach through the highest level of sales and service professionalism, technical and reimbursement support, and clinical education leading to the best possible patient outcomes.

Swiggum will join Andreas Schultz, Regional President and CFO of North America in creating efficiencies and increasing communication across North America. Ottobock now has a dedicated CEO in Swiggum and dedicated CFO in Schultz to lead the organization into the next phase of living its mission to help people maintain or regain their freedom of movement.

“The focus is our mission,” stated Swiggum. “How we support our mission will continue to evolve as we work closely with our customers to enhance their experience and improve patient outcomes throughout North America.”

2017 Amounts in Controversy Recently Released

Medicare recently released the Amounts in Controversy (AIC) for the 2017 calendar year. The AIC is the monetary threshold which must be met in order to file an appeal with the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), third level of appeal, and with the Federal District Court, fifth level of appeal.

The 2017 AIC for the ALJ is \$160 and represents a \$10 increase over the 2016 AIC. The AIC for the Federal District Court is \$1,560 and represents a \$60 increase over the 2016 AIC. The new AICs will be effective for all appeal requests filed on or after January 1, 2017.

Questions? Contact Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

Jurisdiction A DME MAC Offering Personalized Education Opportunities

Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC, the contractor who serves as the Jurisdiction A DME MAC, is offering all Jurisdiction A suppliers the option of having individualized education tailored to their company with an Electronic Supplier Visit (E-visit). The E-visit can be scheduled for up to 90 minutes of tailored education with Noridian's Outreach and Education team.

Noridian will customize a presentation to answer questions that you may have and provide education on the policies you bill. In order to request this education opportunity, visit the Jurisdiction A website and complete the [Education Request – Electronic Supplier Visit Data Collection Form](#).

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
- Working with Pre-Preg materials

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](#)