



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

April 13, 2017

AOPA Headlines:

[Nominate an O&P Inventor or Innovator](#)

[AOPA Submits Comments on Connecticut Medicaid Policy Changes on Cranial Orthoses and other L Codes](#)

[Dale Yasukawa Scholarship Deadline May 15 for NUPOC Students](#)

[Jurisdiction D DME MAC Releases Quarterly Audit Results for Spinal Orthosis](#)

[The ABN Form Has Been Updated](#)

[Try the AOPAversity Online Learning Center for FREE](#)

[AOPA Pilot Research Grants – Deadline April 28th](#)

[Register Now for the AOPA 2017 Policy Forum](#)

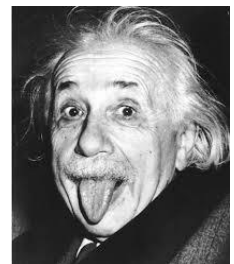
[Check out AOPA's Commemorative Centennial Website!](#)

[Exhibit at the 2017 AOPA O&P World Congress in Las Vegas](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

Nominate an O&P Inventor or Innovator

AOPA is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2017 and we are pulling out all stops during the September 6-9 World Congress, where we will showcase significant milestones of the Association and Profession through our "Walk Through Time" historical display, as well as awards to honor those who have made a significant contribution to patient care through the invention of a device or technique.



Your opinion matters and we encourage the profession to nominate an inventor or innovator through our easy nomination process. **The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2017.**

[Nominate an inventor or innovator now.](#)

AOPA Submits Comments on Connecticut Medicaid Policy Changes on Cranial Orthoses and other L Codes

On March 30, AOPA submitted comments on two recently announced [Connecticut Medicaid policies](#). The proposed changes include the elimination of some L-Codes from the Connecticut Medicaid fee schedule due to lack of utilization, as well as a 10% reduction in the fee schedule for several custom fitted or custom fabricated orthosis HCPCS codes.

One proposed reimbursement change that is of particular concern is a 40% reduction in Connecticut Medicaid reimbursement for cranial remolding orthoses described by HCPCS code S1040. The notice from Connecticut Medicaid states that the 40% reduction is to "ensure consistency with reimbursement rates of other states and to contain costs." In addition to the proposed 40% reduction in reimbursement for cranial remolding orthoses, there are also proposed changes to the prior authorization process for cranial remolding orthoses that may lead to unnecessary and inappropriate delays in the provision of quality care.

AOPA submitted comments on the March 30th deadline and provided a letter that 73 AOPA members in Connecticut plus supplier members submitted through the AOPAVotes website. [Read AOPA's comments.](#)

Dale Yasukawa Scholarship Deadline May 15 for NUPOC Students

The OPAF Dale Yasukawa Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications from Northwestern University students currently enrolled in the O & P masters degree program. The \$1,000.00 scholarship is intended to assist NUPOC students attend their local chapter or society meeting of the Academy. More information is located on the OPAF website at: <http://www.opafonline.org/programs/scholarship.htm>

Scholarship applications are due by May 15.

This scholarship program is currently open to all full-time master's program candidates enrolled in Northwestern University's Prosthetic Orthotic Center (NUPOC). The chief purpose of the scholarship is to encourage student participation in their local annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP). It is expected that the award will be used specifically to defray meeting registration fees of their local AAOP meeting and assist in the purchasing of books, supplies, and equipment needed for ongoing studies at NUPOC. In November 2001, a memorial fund was established at OPAF in the name of Dale Yasukawa CP. In cooperation with Linda Yasukawa, PT, MS, OPAF has created a scholarship program connected to Dale's memorial fund.

Jurisdiction D DME MAC Releases Quarterly Audit Results for Spinal Orthosis

Noridian, the DME MAC for Jurisdiction D, recently released the results of their ongoing service specific review of Spinal Orthosis (L0450, L0452, L0454-L0458, L0460, L0462, L0464, L0466-L0470, L0472, L0480, L0482, L0484, L0486, L0488, L0490-L0492, L0621, L0623, L0625-L0643 and L0648-L0651). Between October 2016 and February 2017 Noridian reviewed 680 spinal orthoses claims, and 674 were denied. Here were the results:

- The TLSO review had an overall claim potential improper payment rate of **97%**.

- The LSO review had an overall claim potential improper payment rate of **100%**.
- The SO review had an overall claim potential improper payment rate of **69%**.
- The LO review had an overall claim potential improper payment rate of **100%**.

Based on these results Noridian will continue its prepayment reviews for the above codes. You may view the complete audit results [here](#).

The ABN Form Has Been Updated

The Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN) form has recently been updated and approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). There were no substantial changes made to the content or directions for use of the ABN form (CMS-R-131). The primary revision was to include new language informing patients of their rights to Medicare nondiscrimination practices, and how to request the ABN in a different format if required. The revised ABN will become effective on June 21, 2017 and may be downloaded [here](#).

Try the AOPAversity Online Learning Center for FREE

Easy to Use * Great Selection of Videos * Instant Quiz Results

Try our online learning center for FREE! Access the "Boston Strong Grand Rounds" between from March 1 – May 15, 2017 and earn 3 scientific credits - a \$55 value.

Create an account, add the "Boston Strong Grand Rounds" to your cart and check out, then watch the video and take the quiz to earn 2.5 scientific credits for free.

AOPAversity has 80+ videos on orthotics, prosthetics, pedorthics, technician training, marketing, growing your practice, reimbursement, and more.

[Try AOPAversity Today](#)

**Get instant quiz results
and access your account
24/7**

**CEs automatically sent
to ABC and BOC
quarterly**

**Discounted rates for
AOPA members**

AOPA Pilot Research Grants – Deadline April 28th

The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association, in partnership with the Center for O&P Learning & Evidence-Based Practice (COPL), is proud to announce a Request for Pilot Grant Proposals in 16 potential areas of orthotic and prosthetic research including an open topic.

There are 16 topics total with a few examples listed below:

- Study community outcomes of patients, such as activity, social interactions, depression and anxiety
- Understand the effects of prosthetic component selection on community activity levels rather than in the lab
- Study the origins/clinical goals and prevalence of prosthesis prescribing patterns
- Link biomechanical performance measures to functional levels

- Open Topics - Beyond the Above Priorities, Top Quality Clinical O&P Research Topics Considered
- [See the rest of the topics in the full RFP.](#)

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 28, 2017.* [Read the full eligibility and application process.](#)

Register Now for the AOPA 2017 Policy Forum

Registration is now open for the 2017 AOPA Policy Forum! The Policy Forum will take place May 24-25 in Washington, DC. The Policy Forum is your best opportunity to learn the latest legislative and regulatory details and how they will affect you, your business and your patients. Once you are armed with the facts, we as a profession will educate our members of Congress to offer common sense solutions and share how the O&P profession restores lives and puts people back to work. [Learn More and Register Now.](#)



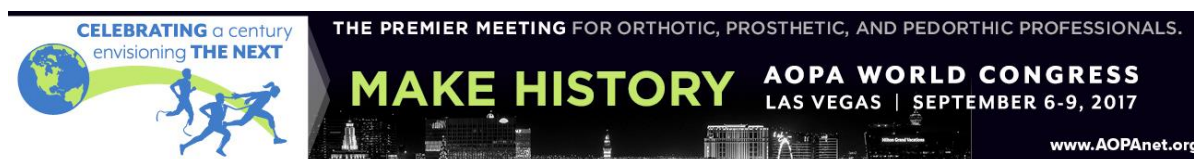
Check out AOPA's Commemorative Centennial Website!

We are pleased to present our new website commemorating our 100 year anniversary – www.AOPA100.org. The website features AOPA's history, an interactive timeline, photo gallery, O&P stories from AOPA members, and AOPA's plans for the future. Listen to stories from other AOPA members and submit your own, and share photos for our photo gallery.



Don't forget to follow AOPA on social media for Throwback Thursday posts all year long! #aopa100!

Exhibit at the 2017 AOPA O&P World Congress in Las Vegas



AOPA is currently accepting exhibit applications for the 2017 AOPA O&P World Congress, which is to be held September 6-9, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada in conjunction with AOPA's 100th Anniversary Celebration. Now is your chance to sign up and showcase your products at the largest O&P tradeshow in the Western Hemisphere. This world-wide convention opportunity features 4 days of high-level networking, exhibits, the latest techniques in O&P treatment, and the finest industry specific business and clinical training programs. We hope you make plans to join us. The first Congress was a great learning experience for all and with your participation we can create a larger and even more successful event.

Why you should attend:

- [Research and Development](#) expenditures in the United States are more than \$95 billion, making the United States the leader in medical innovation and creating the ideal location for a unique gathering of high visibility and importance.

- Superior Clinical Education featuring the best speakers from around the world. Hear from physicians, researchers and top-notch practitioners.
- Practical Learning and live demonstrations
- Learn how U.S. Health Care reform continues to influence patient care and global health policy.
- Networking with an elite and influential group of professionals.
- Largest Display of exhibits in the United States for the orthotic, prosthetic and pedorthic profession.
- Ideal U.S. Location chosen for travel ease and popularity.

Exhibiting at this important global event will give you the opportunity to:

- Build your customer base and increase sales;
- Experience face-to-face time with existing customers to answer questions and build relationships;
- Enjoy sponsored networking opportunities, including an opening reception in the exhibit hall;
- Take advantage of fun traffic building opportunities;
- Increase visibility for your company/organization in a targeted market;
- Host a Manufactures Workshop and/or Product Preview Theater;
- Take advantage of education sessions to learn what's happening with health care reform, Medicare, and other regulatory agencies that affect your bottom line;
- Speak to AOPA coding experts to learn what' is happening with U.S. government sponsored healthcare programs and what you need to do to sell your products in the U.S.

[Sign up today to exhibit at the 2017 AOPA O&P World Congress.](#) Contact Kelly O'Neill with any questions at koneill@AOPAnet.org or call (571) 431-0852.

Upcoming AOPA Events

May 10, 2017	<i>Modifiers: What do They Mean and When to Use Them</i> AOPA Webinar Learn more and register here
May 24-25, 2017	AOPA Policy Forum Washington, DC Learn more and register here
July 17-18, 2017	<i>Coding & Billing Seminar</i> Pittsburgh, PA Learn more and register here