



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

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AOPA In Advance SmartBrief

Breaking News

May 30, 2017

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AOPA Announces New Online Reimbursement, Coding & Policy Compendium

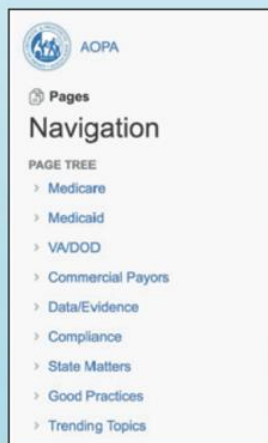


Co-OP New Member Benefit

The Co-OP, an online reimbursement, coding and policy resource, will serve as a collection of concise, but detailed information with links to supporting documentation.

Includes:

- state specific insurance policy updates,
- Lcode search capability,
- data and evidence resources,
- and so much more!



Visit www.AOPAnet.org/co-op to sign up.

Wrap Up of the 2017 AOPA Policy Forum

The 2017 AOPA Policy Forum, held May 24-25, was another successful one for the record books. With the broader healthcare debate going on in Washington and across America, AOPA members came to DC to discuss the issues most important to them and their patients with their lawmakers.

The big story of the Policy Forum was the introduction in the 115th Congress of S.1191 and H.R. 2599, better known as the Medicare O&P Improvements Act of 2017. This bill, among other things, would separate O&P from DME, and allow orthotist's and prosthetist's notes to be part of the medical record for determining medical necessity.

The introduction of this legislation gave AOPA members a chance to tell a terrific story to legislators and Congressional staff during the more than 395 appointments arranged on behalf of the 100 plus O&P professionals and patients that donned their advocacy hats during the May 25th visits to Capitol Hill. In addition to lobbying for the O&P Improvements Act, attendees also requested support for additional funding for O&P research and education, support for the Veterans Bill of Rights, and a moratorium on the Draft LCD and all related lower limb audits.

Representative Brian Mast (R-FL), pictured on the right, was the opening keynote speaker for the Policy Forum, sharing his amazing story of losing both limbs as a bomb technician in Afghanistan, and his rehabilitation at Walter Reed. He reminded members of their value to patients like him, and set the stage for the advocacy briefings that followed throughout the afternoon program. Other members of Congress joining him for the briefings were Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), a physician, who [has emerged as a critical vote in the ACA Repeal-and-Replace efforts](#), and Representative Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), a doctor of podiatric medicine. The O&P PAC sponsored a lunch for Rep. Mast, a reception for Senator Cassidy and a breakfast for Rep. Wenstrup that were all well-attended and provided an opportunity for AOPA members to engage in serious conversations about the challenges facing O&P providers and patients in a personal environment.

The newest and exclusive AOPA member benefit, the Co-OP, was introduced at the Policy Forum. The Co-OP is an online reimbursement, coding and policy resource that includes a collection of detailed information with links to supporting documentation for the topics most important to AOPA members.

Stay tuned for more information from the 2017 AOPA Policy Forum and updates on current O&P legislation discussed during the Policy Forum.



Issues and Position Papers

[Competitive Bidding](#)

[American Health Care Act](#)

[Veterans Bill of Rights](#)

[Medicare O&P Improvement Act](#)

[Draft Lower Limb LCD Moratorium](#)

[Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act](#)

See more photos at [AOPA's Flickr site](#).



Thank you to our 2017 AOPA Policy Forum Sponsors!

Jurisdiction C DME MAC Publishes Pre-Payment Review of Microprocessor Knee Code

As previously reported, on May 4, 2017, CGS Administrators, LLC, the Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractor (DME MAC) for Jurisdiction C, announced the initiation of a widespread pre-payment review for HCPCS code L5856—an addition to lower extremity prosthesis, endoskeletal knee-shin system, microprocessor control feature, swing and stance phase, includes electronic sensor(s), of any type. L5856 is used as an addition code to prosthetic knee components that incorporate the use of a microprocessor to control the knee during both swing and stance phase of the gait cycle.

This announcement was made during a CGS hosted webinar that focused on documentation requirements for lower limb prostheses. On May 16, 2017, the pre-payment review was formally announced on the Jurisdiction C website. A link to the announcement may be accessed by [clicking here](#).

CGS announced that the pre-payment review will begin on or around June 15, 2017 and suggested that providers review the current LCD and Policy Article for lower limb prostheses and to reference the CGS documentation checklist for lower limb prostheses that may be accessed by [clicking here](#).

While the CGS documentation checklist is a useful tool, it does not contain any specific information regarding coverage requirements for microprocessor controlled prostheses. AOPA members are encouraged to work with their physician partners to ensure that documentation, regarding the need for a microprocessor controlled prosthetic knee, is present in the patient's medical record. The documentation must address the need for a microprocessor knee over a conventional prosthetic knee as well as support the need for K3 or higher functional level components. CGS did not indicate how many claims will be affected by the widespread review but did indicate that the pre-payment review will occur across all provider groups who submit claims including L5856.

AOPA will continue to follow this issue very closely and provide continued support to AOPA members regarding this newly announced pre-payment review. Questions regarding this issue may be directed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

Jurisdiction D Releases Quarterly Results for L0631 & L0637 Prepayment Reviews

Noridian, the Jurisdiction D DME MAC, recently released the quarterly results of its review of HCPCS codes L0631 and L0637. Between December 2016 and March 2017 Noridian reviewed 105 claims for L0631 and 135 claims for L0637. The results indicate a 98% improper payment rate for the L0631, 103 claim denials, and a 96% improper payment rate for L0637, 130 claim denials.

It was indicated that the top denial reasons included but were not limited to missing proof of delivery and documentation submitted didn't support the custom fit criteria of policy. Based on the results Noridian will continue with its review of L0631 and L0637. Questions regarding this issue may be directed to Joe McTernan at jmcternan@AOPAnet.org or Devon Bernard at dbernard@AOPAnet.org.

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](#).

How Does Your O&P Patient Care Facility Measure Up?



Forward thinking managers are eager to receive their company's Operating Performance and Compensation (OPC) customized company report. This report, available to each AOPA member taking part in the 2017 OPC Survey, is a scorecard on how your O&P facility's operating performance compares with others of similar size and geographic location.

Really good managers just don't sit in the dark and digest the information and its implications on their own. They share the data with staff members as a basis for discussion on company processes and how each employee contributes to staff productivity, profitability, and more! From there, practices can be modified and financial performance improved. Everybody wins.

To receive your company's Operating Performance and Compensation customized company report, you'll need to complete the survey, which is open until June 23rd. It's FREE. You'll also get the opportunity for a 30 minute consultation with Industry Insights about your findings. Don't miss out on this Scorecard Opportunity! Go to www.aopa-survey.com to fill out the survey online or call 571-431-0810 for more information.

Register for the July Coding & Billing Seminar in Pittsburgh, PA

Join the AOPA Billing & Coding Experts July 17-18 in Pittsburgh, PA

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.

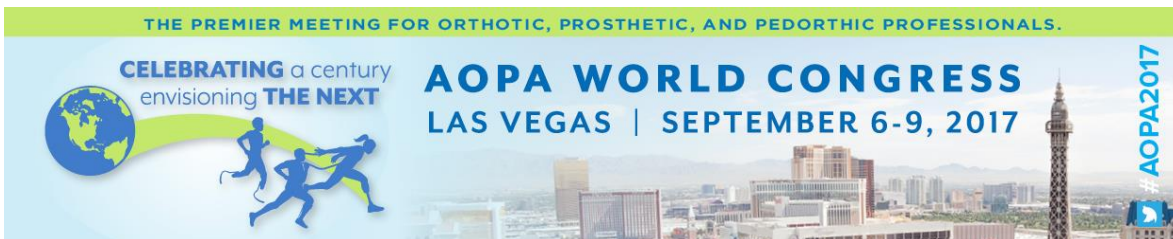
At this seminar you will:

- 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

AOPA World Congress Registration is Open – Register Now for Early Bird Pricing

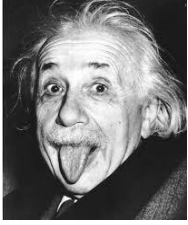


Early-bird registration is now open! The best and the brightest clinical and business speakers. The biggest O&P exhibit hall. Networking with the most influential people in the industry. The fun events. More than 32 CE's... Need any more reasons to attend the 2017 AOPA World Congress? How about Las Vegas? Easy to travel to and fun for everyone, with a variety of hotels, restaurants and activities, Las Vegas is the perfect gathering place.

AOPA and our 9 international partners welcome you to expand your knowledge, grow your market presence, and advance your career at this unique global gathering. [Register now.](#)



Nominate an O&P Inventor or Innovator



AOPA is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2017 and we are pulling out all stops during the World Congress, where we will showcase significant milestones of the Association and Profession through our "Walk Through Time" display, as well as awards to honor those who have made a significant contribution to patient care through an invention or innovation. Your opinion matters - nominate an inventor or innovator through our easy nomination process. **The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2017. [Nominate an inventor or innovator now.](#)**

Upcoming AOPA Events

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| June 14, 2017 | <i>Internal Audits: The Why and the How of Conducting Self-Audits</i>
AOPA Webinar
Learn more and register here |
| July 12, 2017 | Know Your Resources: Where to Look to Find the Answers
AOPA Webinar
Learn more and register here |
| July 17-18, 2017 | <i>Coding & Billing Seminar</i>
Pittsburgh, PA
Learn more and register here |