



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

www.AOPAnet.org

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***Breaking News***  
**April 2, 2020**

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## **COVID-19 Update: CMS Suspends Most Audit Activities**

In response to the declaration of a public health emergency (PHE) due to COVID-19, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has suspended most Medicare fee-for-service medical review activity (audits) for the duration of the PHE.

The suspension of audits includes pre-payment reviews by the DME MACs under the Targeted Probe and Educate (TPE) program, and post payment reviews by the DME MACs, Supplemental Medical Review Contractor (SMRC), and the Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC).

In the March 26 SmartBrief, AOPA reported that Performant Recovery, the RAC contractor, had suspended the issuance of any new Additional Documentation Requests (ADRs) associated with complex medical review audits but would continue to perform automated reviews including audits based on reasonable useful lifetime (RUL). AOPA has since verified that the RAC will also be suspending automated reviews.

CMS has indicated that audits may still be conducted in cases where fraud and abuse is suspected.

Review CMS's Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Provider Burden Relief Frequently Asked Questions [here](#).

Questions? Contact Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jmcternan@AOPAnet.org), or Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org).

For other COVID-19 updates visit the [COVID-19 Responses and Resources webpage](#). To see how other AOPA members are responding and to share your responses visit the [Member to Member resources on the AOPA Co-OP](#).

## **CMS Pauses Medicare DMEPOS Prior Authorization Program and Provides Other Regulatory Relief in Response to COVID-19**

On March 30, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced several temporary regulatory waivers intended "to equip the American health care system with maximum flexibility to respond to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic."

Included in the announcement was a notice that CMS will pause the national DMEPOS prior authorization program for certain DMEPOS. Prior authorization was scheduled for implementation for six lower limb prosthesis codes L5856, L5857, L5858, L5973, L5980, and L5987) in four states (PA, MI, TX, and CA) on May 11, 2020 and nationwide on October 8, 2020.

AOPA has been in communication with CMS and the DME MACS to express our concerns regarding the impact prior authorization would have on patients' access to O&P care during the COVID-19 crisis. We believe that this pause will allow Medicare providers to continue to focus on providing medically necessary, clinically appropriate O&P care to Medicare beneficiaries without having to dedicate valuable resources to unfamiliar processes and documentation requirements.

In addition, CMS also announced that they are temporarily waiving signature and proof of delivery requirements for Part B drugs and DMEPOS when a signature cannot be obtained due to COVID-

19. In this situation, providers should document in the medical record the appropriate date of delivery and that a signature was not able to be obtained because of COVID-19.

The CMS announcement also discussed a previously announced relaxation of DMEPOS accreditation requirements to facilitate provider enrollment. ABC and BOC have expressed their strong concern that suspending DMEPOS accreditation requirements may expose the Medicare program to increased fraud and abuse. To address this, AOPA and its partners in the O&P Alliance are preparing a letter to CMS asking them to reconsider the suspension of DMEPOS accreditation.

The announcement also indicated increased flexibility in the processing of appeals by both fee for service and Medicare Managed Care contractors. AOPA will look into this provision in more detail and provide additional information regarding these flexibilities in the near future.

Finally, the announcement discussed the potential for advanced Medicare payments that may be available to providers to address immediate cash flow issues. This is a very complex issue and AOPA, in conjunction with our consultants at McGuireWoods, is developing member resources regarding how this program will be implemented.

The CMS announcement may be viewed [here](#).

AOPA will continue to maintain open lines of communication with CMS and the DME MACs and will relay COVID-19 developments to AOPA members as soon as AOPA is aware of them.

### **COVID-19 Update: Clarification on Emergency-Based Waivers Guidance**

AOPA has received questions and concerns from members about CMS guidance regarding replacement of DMEPOS during COVID-19. To address these questions and concerns, AOPA has been in contact with the DME MACs to discuss actions that they will take to implement the provisions of these emergency-based waivers.

During a recent presentation the DME MACs addressed some of our questions. Specifically, they stated that the 1135 waivers only apply to replacements that are necessary as a direct result of the emergency. For example, a patient is being transported to the hospital with COVID-19 symptoms and the brace is lost in the ambulance.

A beneficiary's inability to make an appointment or see the referring physician does not qualify under the waiver's current provisions. It must also be stressed that the waivers don't apply to new services such as socket replacements.

When providing a replacement item under the waiver, suppliers are reminded to include a narrative description explaining why the item needs to be replaced with their claims and must maintain documentation for the need of the replacement item. Suppliers must also use the CR modifier on their claims. Find more information on the waiver [here](#).

CMS and the DME MACs continue to make sure every effort is made to ensure that Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries continue to have complete access to clinically appropriate medical care during this emergency. And as a result, information and guidance is continually being released and revised. AOPA will continue to provide this information and guidance as it becomes available.

In the meantime, AOPA members should continue to make every effort to obtain the appropriate documentation to support the O&P services they provide.

Questions? Contact Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jmcternan@AOPAnet.org) or Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org).

### **COVID-19 Update: Congress Passes CARES Act to Help Provide Financial Relief**

On March 27, in response to COVID-19, Congress finalized the CARES Act, a massive financial relief package designed to tide the U.S. economy and its strained healthcare sector over for the next few months. In terms of tax relief and benefits for O&P, the bill:

- Carves out \$350 billion in aid for small businesses, much of which would be in loans through the Small Business Administration (SBA) and banks, guaranteed by the federal government.
  - The loans would be forgiven provided the businesses meet certain requirements, including limiting reductions in pay and layoffs, though with some flexibility for employers. (Applicants must make good faith certifications that coronavirus has impacted their business and that the loan is necessary for continuation of their business.)
  - These loans can be used to cover payroll expenses, including salaries and compensation; various forms of paid sick, medical or family leave; group health insurance premiums; state and local taxes assessed on employee compensation; rent; utilities; and interest paid on debt.
  - Applicants that previously received a loan from another source for the same purpose are not eligible.
  - Companies that secured an SBA loan since January 15, 2020 can refinance those recent loans under the terms and conditions of the special SBA coronavirus relief loans.
  - Language added late in the process ensures that an inspector general and congressional oversight committee (with members yet-to-be-determined) oversee how the money is spent.
  - This funding is in addition to the significant assistance provided in legislation previously passed by Congress, which authorizes approximately \$2 billion worth of 100 percent guaranteed SBA loans, a portion of which SBA will forgive based on allowable expenses for the borrower. SBA is [already accepting applications](#) for these funds.
  - Provides a refundable payroll tax credit for 50 percent of wages paid by employers to employees during the COVID-19 crisis. The credit is available to employers whose gross receipts declined by more than 50 percent when compared to the same quarter in the prior year. The credit is based on qualified wages paid to the employee. For employers with greater than 100 full-time employees, qualified wages are wages paid to employees when they are not providing services due to the COVID-19-related circumstances described above. For eligible employers with 100 or fewer full-time employees, all employee wages qualify for the credit, whether the employer is open for business or subject to a shut-down order. The credit is provided for the first \$10,000 of compensation, including health benefits, paid to an eligible employee. The credit is provided for wages paid or incurred from March 13, 2020 through December 31, 2020 and is NOT available to employers receiving Small Business Interruption Loans.

- Relaxes the limitations on a company's use of losses. Net operating losses (NOL) are currently subject to a taxable-income limitation, and they cannot be carried back to reduce income in a prior tax year. The legislation provides that an NOL arising in a tax year beginning in 2018, 2019, or 2020 can be carried back five years. The provision also temporarily removes the taxable income limitation to allow an NOL to fully offset income. Congress hopes that these changes will allow companies to utilize losses and amend prior year returns, which will provide critical cash flow and liquidity during the pandemic.
- Allocates funding to support "short-time compensation" programs, where employers reduce employee hours instead of laying off workers and the employees with reduced hours receive a pro-rated unemployment benefit. This provision would pay 100 percent of the costs they incur in providing this short-time compensation through December 31, 2020.
- Creates a temporary Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program to provide payment to those not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits (self-employed, independent contractors, those with limited work history, and others) who are unable to work as a direct result of COVID-19. It also creates an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to help those who remain unemployed after weeks of state unemployment benefits are no longer available.
- Authorizes the Treasury Department to provide advance payment of tax credits that are available to private sector employers that are required to provide up to 12 weeks of coronavirus-related paid leave to their employees.
- Clarifies the limitation on compensation during paid sick days, stating an employer shall not be required to pay more than \$511 per day and \$5,110 in the aggregate for sick leave or more than \$200 per day and \$2,000 in the aggregate.

In terms of healthcare provisions, the bill:

- Temporarily lifts the Medicare sequester, which reduces payments to providers by two percent, from May 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
- Directs the Secretary of Health & Human Services to develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan to identify workforce projection needs.
- Prevents scheduled reductions in Medicare payments for durable medical equipment subject to competitive bidding. (This does not impact the January 1, 2021 scheduled implementation of Medicare competitive bidding for off-the-shelf orthoses.)
- Finally, AOPA was able to include language in the bill to ensure Veterans can receive care from their choice of practitioner throughout the crisis. Specifically, the bill says "The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, veterans who are receiving or are eligible to receive a prosthetic appliance...are able to receive such an appliance that the Secretary determines is needed from a non-Department of Veterans Affairs provider under a contract with the Department during a public health emergency." This is especially timely for our industry as the VA recently announced it would discontinue offering nonurgent community care referrals to veterans during the coronavirus pandemic.

AOPA stands ready to assist members with taking advantage of the applicable provisions of this \$2.2 trillion-dollar bill as they are implemented. We'll be holding a webinar **next Thursday, April 2 at 2pm ET** that will go into more detail on the legislation, the SBA loans, and the process for applying. [Register here](#). We will also update the [COVID-19 Response and Resources webpage](#) as information is made available by the SBA, the Department of Treasury, and other entities. In the

meantime, if you have any questions about the legislation, please contact Justin Beland, Director of Government Affairs, at [jbeland@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jbeland@AOPAnet.org).

### **RAC Contractor Suspends New Additional Documentation Requests for At Least 30 Days**

In response to CMS guidance as a result of COVID-19, Performant, the national RAC contractor for Medicare DMEPOS, Home Health, and Hospice claims has announced that, effective March 18, 2020, they have suspended the issuance of any new Additional Documentation Requests (ADRs) for a minimum of 30 days. This announcement provides some limited, temporary relief to providers struggling with COVID-19 related challenges in obtaining and maintaining appropriate documentation to support the medical need of services they are currently providing, never mind having to track down documentation for claims that were originally reimbursed several years ago.

In addition to suspending new ADR requests, Performant has indicated that any providers that require additional time to gather and submit requested documentation for ADRs received prior to March 18<sup>th</sup> should contact RAC customer service by telephone at 866-201-0580 or by e-mail at [info@performantrac.com](mailto:info@performantrac.com).

Unfortunately, AOPA has confirmed that the suspension of the issuance of new ADRs has no impact on Performant's continued use of automated reviews for issues like reasonable useful lifetime (RUL). Performant has indicated that automated reviews will continue to occur under existing CMS guidelines.

AOPA will continue to monitor this situation and will provide any updates as they are made available.

### **COVID-19 Update: Guidance on O&P Businesses Operations During State & Local Restrictions**

As state and local governments begin to implement restrictions to population interaction in response to COVID-19, AOPA members have requested guidance regarding the continued operation of orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) businesses. AOPA has been monitoring developments on this issue closely and offers the following guidance based on the current available information.

As of March 23, 2020, at least 11 states (Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, California, New Jersey, New York, Illinois, Connecticut, Oregon, and Pennsylvania) and multiple local municipalities have issued orders that restrict or close "non-essential" businesses until further notice. AOPA has reviewed each of these orders and found very consistent language that clearly considers the continued operation of healthcare facilities as "essential" services that are exempt. This exemption applies to both patients who may continue to receive care from healthcare facilities and employees who may continue to work at these facilities.

AOPA fully expects additional state and local authorities to follow suit and implement these restrictions but expects that O&P facilities will continue to be exempt from these restrictions. If additional restrictions are implemented that affect the continued operation of O&P businesses, AOPA will alert its members as soon as we receive the information.

AOPA urges O&P patient care facilities to carefully consider all factors when making decisions regarding the continuation of operations during COVID-19. While there is a clear exemption that



permits O&P facilities to continue to operate during state and locally implemented restrictions, the decision on how to operate and how to interact with the public must be made with the best interest of your communities, your employees and, most of all, your patients. Additionally, AOPA highly recommends continued compliance with the [latest guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control](#).

### **AOPA's COVID-19 Responses, Guidance, and Resources**

To say we are in unprecedented times would be an understatement. Since my last message, the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) leadership has continued to closely follow the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and its widespread impacts. We have also been taking your calls and emails and hearing firsthand how extremely difficult and uncertain things are for you, your businesses, and your patients.

To that end, we are responding with support. We are responding with outreach to legislators about how they can best support the O&P profession. We are responding by providing guidance on regulations like documentation, telehealth, and stay at home orders. We are responding by pulling together resources. We are responding by creating a space on the Co-OP to share your experiences and strategies with one another.

All of this can be found on the newly developed [COVID-19 Response and Resources webpage](#). We will be updating this webpage frequently with actions, guidance, and resources as well as pushing out updates via email, Smartbrief, and our social media channels.

Thank you for all you continue to do for your patients and the O&P profession. The Board and staff are here to support you so that you can do this. If you have questions, concerns, or needs do not hesitate to reach out to any of the staff at [info@AOPAnet.org](mailto:info@AOPAnet.org).

### **Certain Enrollment Procedures Waived for COVID-19**

In response to COVID-19, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to use its authority to issue waivers to temporarily suspend or modify certain Medicare requirements to ensure Medicare beneficiaries continue to receive prompt and proper care.

As part of these efforts CMS has made the following modifications to the enrollment process for all DMEPOS suppliers:

- CMS and the National Supplier Clearing House (NSC) will expedite any pending or new applications received on or after March 1, 2020. If there are no issues with your CMS-855S form your application will be processed within 7 business days (if submitted online), and 14 business days (if submitted by paper).
- CMS and the NSC will be waiving the following screening requirements for all enrollment applications received on or after March 1, 2020: the supplier application fee, criminal background checks, and site visits.
- CMS and the NSC will be posting all revalidation actions and deadlines.
- CMS is postponing all accreditation and reaccreditation timetables and deadlines

If you have any questions about how these waivers and modifications effect your current or future enrollment applications contact the NSC at 1-866-238-9652. This toll-free line was established specifically for questions about the above-mentioned waivers.

If you have specific questions about the postponing of accreditation timetables and deadlines, you may want to contact your accrediting organization directly.

### **COVID-19: Impact of CMS Waivers on AOPA Members**

On March 13, 2020, President Trump issued an emergency declaration under the Stafford Act and the National Emergencies Act to help address issues being caused by the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). As part of this declaration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) put in place certain blanket waivers to help Medicare beneficiaries impacted receive prompt care.

The two issues of importance to American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) members are the proposed relaxation of existing requirements for telehealth visits and the relaxation of the referring practitioner documentation requirements for replacement of orthoses and prostheses.

AOPA has been in contact with the DME MACs to discuss actions that they will take to implement the provisions of these emergency-based waivers. While they are awaiting specific guidance from CMS on how to properly implement, they have indicated that CMS intends to make every effort to ensure that Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries continue to have complete access to clinically appropriate medical care. In the meantime, AOPA members should continue to make every effort to obtain appropriate documentation to support the O&P services they provide.

CMS has issued the following guidance regarding replacement of DMEPOS during the state of emergency: "Where Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) is lost, destroyed, irreparably damaged, or otherwise rendered unusable or unavailable, contractors have the flexibility to waive replacements requirements such that the face-to-face requirement, a new physician's order, and new medical necessity documentation."

When providing a replacement item under this waiver, suppliers are reminded to include a narrative description explaining why the item needs to be replaced with their claims and must maintain documentation for the need of the replacement item. Suppliers must also use the CR modifier on their claims. CMS has also declared that the documentation waiver is retroactive to dates of service on or after March 1, 2020. Find more information on the waiver [here](#).

For more information on telehealth, read [Medicare's Telemedicine Fact Sheet](#) and the companion [Medicaid piece](#).

AOPA remains committed to making sure its members can continue to provide clinically appropriate, medically necessary care with minimal interruption as a result of COVID-19. To this end, AOPA will continue to provide additional information and resources as they become available.



## CMS Releases a Provider Toolkit of Resources Related to COVID-19

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help providers stay up-to-date on CMS materials available on COVID-19. The toolkit provides multiple links to valuable information for providers, caregivers, Medicare beneficiaries, and other CMS partners.

AOPA believes that the toolkit is a valuable resource and encourages AOPA members to review and utilize the resources as needed.

Questions? Contact Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jmcternan@AOPAnet.org) or Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org).

## 2020 COPL RFP Deadline Extended to May 21st

We know many are dealing with major disruptions to their daily lives. To accommodate this, we have decided to extend the deadline for the Center for Orthotic and Prosthetic Learning and Outcomes/Evidence-Based Practice's (COPL) [2020 Request for Pilot Grant Proposals](#). Proposals will now be due **May 21, 2020**.

For 2020-2021, COPL is seeking proposals in 10 potential areas of orthotic and prosthetic research including an open topic at two funding levels for one-time grants, \$15,000 and up to two exceptional proposals for \$30,000 for one year. Preference will be given to grants that address evidence-based clinical application in orthotics and prosthetics. [View the RFP topics and guidelines and then apply online.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact AOPA's Director of Strategic Alliances, Ashlie White, at [awhite@AOPAnet.org](mailto:awhite@AOPAnet.org) or 571/431-0812.

## AOPA Message on COVID-19

Like all of you, the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) leadership is closely following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). As you have likely heard, we have made the tough decision to cancel several of our upcoming events in light of it.

We know that these are difficult and uncertain times for you and your patients. Please know, the Board and staff are here to support you so that you can continue to provide quality care to your patients.

As the situation evolves daily, we encourage you to follow the guidance being issued from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization, and your local, state, and the federal governments. Specifically, the [CDC has this webpage](#) with resources and guidance for healthcare facilities. AOPA will continue to monitor the situation and provide guidance as appropriate.

Thank you for all you do for your patients and the O&P profession. As always do not hesitate to contact any of the AOPA staff with questions, concerns, or needs.

Stay safe and well.

## Policy Forum Update

The American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) leadership has been monitoring the COVID-19 developments and after careful consideration has decided to cancel the 2020 Policy Forum scheduled for May 5-6 in Washington DC. This was an extremely difficult decision given the importance of our advocacy agenda, but ultimately the health and safety of our members and their patients were the top priority.

However, this doesn't mean we won't be taking our issues to policymakers. Instead of the in-person event, we are in the process of developing a virtual version of the Policy Forum to be held on the same days. To advance our agenda we need your voices so, please continue to hold those dates on your calendar. We will be in touch soon with additional information.

Thank you for your understanding as well as your continued support and advocacy of the O&P profession and the patients it serves.

If you have any questions contact Justin Beland, AOPA's Director of Government Affairs at [jbeland@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jbeland@AOPAnet.org) or 571/431-0814.

## DME MAC & PDAC Announce New Coding Verification Requirement

The DME MACs and PDAC recently released a joint announcement for a new coding verification requirement for L3960 (SEWHO, abduction positioning, airplane design, prefabricated, includes fitting and adjustment). For all claims with a date of service on or after August 1, 2020 the only braces which may be billed using L3960 must have a written PDAC coding verification and listed on the PDAC Product Classification list.

The joint announcement also included new coding guidelines for the L3960. According to the announcement the L3960 is used for abducting the arm away from the body and capable of immobilizing the shoulder, elbow, wrist, and hand. It contains adjustable rigid cuffs and joints/components to optimize the shoulder, elbow, wrist and hand angles; the shoulder position is capable of 90 degrees abduction from torso. It also contains adjustable rigid chest and pelvic frames, or panels supports shoulder and arm components; and the L3960 is considered all-inclusive of soft interface and closures/straps.

Questions? Contact Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jmcternan@AOPAnet.org) or Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org).

## Revisions to the Lower Limb Prostheses Policy

On March 12, 2020 the DME MACs released a revised Lower Limb Prostheses Policy. Most of the revisions were clerical and organizational in nature, such as listing out all codes instead of printing them in ranges, changing "ordering physician" to "treating practitioner", and updating the policy with the new standard written order (SWO) instructions. The Policy Article was reorganized to have direct headings and sections for knees, sockets, ankles and feet.

AOPA's Coding & Reimbursement Committee is reviewing the revisions and will provide the DME MACs with appropriate recommendations and concerns if necessary.

Questions? Contact Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jmcternan@AOPAnet.org) or Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org).

### **AOPA Participates in CMS Open Door Forum Call Regarding Medicare Prior Authorization for 6 Lower Limb Prosthesis HCPCS Codes**

On March 11, AOPA participated in a Medicare Open Door Forum call that provided sub-regulatory guidance on the upcoming implementation of Medicare prior authorization for six lower limb prosthesis HCPCS codes. The call was hosted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and was led by Amy Cinquegrani and Dr. Scott Lawrence of the Medicare Division of Payment Methods and Strategies. The four DME MAC Medical Directors also participated in the call and the question and answer period that followed it. The presentation that was used as an outline was published in advance by CMS and may be accessed [here](#). For additional information on Medicare prior authorization read [AOPA's initial announcement](#) from February 11.

During the call, AOPA had the opportunity to request clarification regarding several issues that CMS had previously indicated would be addressed through sub-regulatory guidance. New information received during the call included the following:

- DME MACs will issue decisions on initial prior authorization requests within 10 business days of receipt of the request.
- DME MACs will issue decisions on prior authorization resubmissions within 10 business days of receipt of the request (previous Medicare prior authorization programs allowed 20 business days for prior authorization resubmissions).
- DME MACs will issue decisions on expedited prior authorization requests within two business days of receipt. In order to be approved, an expedited request must show that the beneficiary's life or health is in immediate danger.
- Prior authorization requests may be submitted through multiple channels including electronic submission, submission through the DME MAC claim portal, by fax, and by mail.
- For the four states (PA, MI, TX, CA) scheduled for implementation of prior authorization for dates of service on or after May 11, 2020, the DME MACs will begin accepting prior authorization requests on April 27, 2020. For national implementation for dates of service on or after October 8, 2020, the DME MACs will begin accepting prior authorization requests on September 24, 2020.
- HCPCS codes that receive provisional affirmation will not be subject to additional medical review except for random CERT review and UPIC (fraud and abuse) review. This only applies to the six HCPCS codes subject to Medicare prior authorization.
- DME MACs will provide education when prior authorization requests are denied, allowing providers to correct errors and facilitate re-submission.
- CMS and DME MACs will closely monitor efforts to adhere to established timeframes for initial decisions and re-submissions.
- Prior authorization requests will be subject to existing Medicare policy governing coverage of lower limb prostheses. No changes are being made to the LCD or Policy Article as a result of prior authorization.

AOPA continues to be encouraged by the communication efforts of CMS and the DME MACs regarding the implementation of Medicare prior authorization. While some uncertainty remains,

AOPA is confident that Medicare prior authorization can be beneficial to Medicare beneficiaries, providers, and the Medicare program.

AOPA will continue to communicate information regarding Medicare prior authorization to our members and will be developing educational resources that will help AOPA members to better understand the program and contribute to its success.

### Learn how the Co-OP will Elevate your Business with a FREE Tutorial

Are you utilizing your AOPA membership? Attend the upcoming live tutorial to learn about one of the best resources available for O&P practices, the [AOPA Co-OP](#).

A Wikipedia for all things O&P, the Co-OP is a one-stop resource for information about reimbursement, coding, and policy. It is searchable database that provides up-to-date information on developments in Medicare policy, state-specific legislation, private-payer updates, and more. Members can access detailed information on everything from modifiers to product-specific L Codes and associated policies. Additionally, members can share information and insights on developments impacting the entire O&P profession.

If you haven't signed up for the Co-OP yet, this is your opportunity to learn about O&P's most comprehensive resource for coding, billing, and reimbursement. AOPA's Director of Strategic Initiatives, Ashlie White will demonstrate how to use the Co-OP and answer all your questions.

Pick the date using the drop-down menu. Register now for FREE:

- [Friday, April 17 at noon ET](#)
- [Friday, May 15 at noon ET](#)

### Upcoming Events

April 3, 2020	<i>Call for Papers Deadline - EOB</i> <a href="#">Submit your papers</a>
April 8, 2020	<i>Policy Review: LSO/TLSO</i> AOPA Webinar <a href="#">Learn more and register</a>
April 17, 2020	<i>FREE Co-OP Tutorial</i> <a href="#">Register online</a>
May 13, 2020	<i>Social Media Mayday: Increase Your Footprint</i> AOPA Webinar <a href="#">Learn more and register</a>
May 21, 2020	<i>COPL Grant Proposal Deadline – EOB</i> <a href="#">Apply online</a>