



www.AOPAnet.org

November 2014

2015 MEDICARE DMEPOS FEE SCHEDULE RELEASED

CMS Increases O&P Fees 1.5%



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the 2015 Medicare DMEPOS fee schedule, effective for claims with a date of service on or after January 1, 2015. The net Medicare fee increase for O&P services for 2015 is 1.5%. This is based on a 2.1% increase in the consumer pricing index for urban areas (CPI-U) from June 2013 through June 2014, minus the annual productivity adjustment, set at 0.6% for 2015. The complete 2015 DMEPOS fee schedule may be downloaded [here](#).

MANY AOPA CONCERNS ADDRESSED IN WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE DRAFT BILL

Provisions Taken from Earlier Bills to Recognize Prosthetist/Orthotist's Notes, Develop Claims Resolution, Require O&P Tracking to be Separate from DME, etc.

AOPA had been anticipating that the House Ways & Means Committee would be putting forward a bill to address Medicare fraud, hospitals, RACs and the long delays for ALJ hearings. Our strategy has involved working closely with two representatives who have been working on their own bills to address RAC problems, Reps. Renee Ellmers (R-NC), author of H.R. 5083: The Medicare DMEPOS Audit Improvement and Reform (AIR) Act of 2014, and Mark Meadows (R-NC), whose bill is still being drafted. [Continue reading...](#)

CMS ISSUES FINAL RULE ON OTS ORTHOTICS: POSTPONES CHANGES

CMS Reverses Fields, Scuttles Current Process for Redefining Orthotics, and for Limiting

Scope of Practice for Certified Orthotic Fitters

On October 31, CMS released the massive final rule covering end stage renal disease payments and a host of other topics, including its proposal to further amend the regulatory definition of "minimal self-adjustment," and to redefine the Medicare treatment of off-the-shelf and custom fitted orthotic devices. After receiving voluminous comments which the agency did not address, CMS simply recited a general synopsis of its July 2 proposal, and then announced what appears to be a deferment, at least for the present, on any final action on the orthotics section of the proposed rule. [Continue Reading...](#)

NEW HCPCS CODES RELEASED FOR 2015

Three New Codes, Three Deleted Codes, One Descriptor Changed

CMS has released the new HCPCS codes for 2015. There were few changes to the codes that describe orthotics and prosthetics for 2015. All changes are effective for claims with a date of service on or after January 1, 2015. [See the code changes.](#)

19% OF PATIENTS WITH A MEDICARE-REIMBURSED OTS DEVICE LATER RECEIVE A CUSTOM DEVICE



New Dobson DaVanzo Study Proves that Providing Devices without Clinical Care May Result in Wasted Funds

Medicare's own data on Medicare patients who received various off-the-shelf orthotics shows that roughly 19% of these patients, after receiving a Medicare-reimbursed OTS device subsequently also receive a Medicare-reimbursed custom-fitted or custom-fabricated orthosis. Some portion of these data reflect instances in which OTS devices are fitted out of necessity in the acute or emergent setting and occasionally with the knowledge that a custom device will be required further down the road. However, it appears that delivering substantial numbers of OTS devices without any accompanying adjustment and clinical care may not result in patients getting better, but results, at least in a substantial number of instances, in wasted Medicare funds on that OTS device AND a delay in the patient receiving any improvement in their symptoms/health. [Continue reading...](#)

2015 AOPA WEBINARS & ESSENTIAL CODING & BILLING TECHNIQUES



ANNOUNCED

Billing Seminars Offered in Savannah, Seattle, and Philadelphia

AOPA has announced the dates and locations for the first 3 Essential Coding & Billing Techniques Seminars of 2015: Savannah, GA, February 9-10; Seattle, WA, April 12-14; and Philadelphia, PA, July 13-14. 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. [Learn more and register here](#). All 12 monthly webinars were announced for 2015, with topics including Contracting for the VA, Medicare as a Secondary Payer, Marketing to Referrals, and many more. [Learn more and register here](#).

American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association
330 John Carlyle St, Ste 200
Alexandria, VA 22314
(571) 431-0876
info@aopanet.org

STAY CONNECTED



[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to tmoran@aopanet.org by landerson@aopanet.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association | 330 JOHN CARLYLE ST., SUITE 200 | ALEXANDRIA | VA | 22314