



AMERICAN ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC ASSOCIATION

In Case you Missed It:

MONTHLY RECAP

www.AOPAnet.org

March 2015

Policy Forum Scores Big "Ten"

O&P Makes an Impact

AOPA's 2015 Policy Forum broke attendance records, built stronger legislative relationships, marked the event with introduction of critical O&P legislation in the House and Senate and generated 696 member encounters with their legislators and staff. What a rousing success on all counts!



Breaking the 120 mark for member attendance represented a 20% increase over recent years and brought that much more energy and expertise to O&P's efforts to get pressing patient care and provider issues in front of the people who can help make a difference. Those who attended did the O&P community of patients and their colleagues a huge service in moving the legislative agenda front and center. Continue reading [here](#).

Renewed Hope for Relief from Recent O&P Challenges - Medicare O&P Improvement Act

O&P: Dedicated to Patient Care



Seldom does a single piece of legislation do so much for a vital segment of patients and healthcare providers as does the new version of the Medicare O&P Improvement Act of 2015 introduced by Sen. Grassley (R-IA) and Sen. Warner (D-VA) in the Senate (S. 829). The House bill (H.R. 1530) was introduced by Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA). Three of the four have previously sponsored versions of the bill and adding Sen. Warner continues the bipartisan support this legislation has always generated. Introduction of the bills on March 23, 2015, on the opening day of AOPA's Policy Forum, paves the way for O&P's relief from the following patient care and business disruptions experienced over the past five years. Read more [here](#).

Jurisdiction C Reports Audit Results for Off-the-Shelf Diabetic Shoes

Medicare Coverage of Diabetic Shoes

CGS, the contractor who serves as the Jurisdiction C DME MAC, recently reported results of its ongoing pre-payment review of claims for off the shelf diabetic shoes described by HCPCS code A5500. For the 4th quarter of 2014, the claim denial rate was 75%.

While the latest report continues to show a steady reduction in claim denials, from a high of 87% in the 4th quarter of 2013, a 75% denial rate remains too high for CGS to consider discontinuing its pre-payment review. It is important for AOPA members to thoroughly review the Local Coverage Determination (LCD) and Policy Article (PA) that together govern Medicare coverage of diabetic shoes. The only way to stop these pre-payment reviews is to lower the claim denial rate to a level that is acceptable to the DME MAC. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).



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New AOPA Study Shows ALJ Backlog's Devastating Impact May Have Common-Sense Solution Plus Save CMS Big Bucks

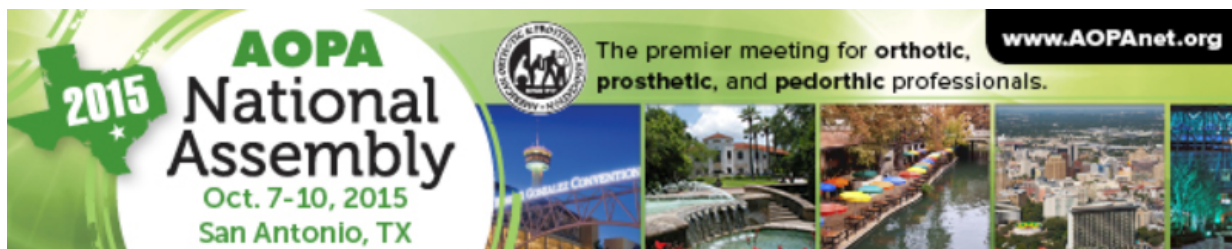
Impact of RAC Audits

With a massive backlog of Medicare reimbursement appeals by health care providers growing at the alarming rate of 15,000 a week and with handling of the appeals delayed from the 90 days required by law to three years or longer, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) could save \$12 million over a decade by postponing reimbursement of disputed payments until the disputes are resolved, according to a new analysis from Dobson DaVanzo & Associates (Dobson DaVanzo) commissioned by the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA). The report is available online at [AOPA Appeals Review](#). More on the story [here](#).

OMHA Announces New ALJ Appeal Status Information Portal

Track the Status of Your Appeal

The Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA), the entity which handles all Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) hearings and requests, the third level of appeal, has announced a new system for you to track the status of your appeal requests. This new tracking portal is called the ALJ Appeal Status Information System (AASIS) and may be accessed on through the OMHA website or by clicking here. The AASIS will inform you if your appeal has been received, assigned, in deliberation, decided, combined or reopened. Learn more [here](#).



2015 AOPA National Assembly
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San Antonio, TX

The premier meeting for orthotic, prosthetic, and pedorthic professionals.

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