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RAC Audits Placed on Hiatus Again

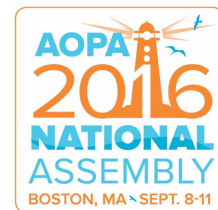
Temporary Hiatus; Claims Submitted Now Still Subject to Future Audits

CMS has notified the four existing RAC contractors that as a result of the upcoming award of new RAC contracts, current RAC audit activity will be placed on hiatus to allow the RACs to complete their open audits prior to the completion of their contracts. While this announcement may result in a temporary slowdown of RAC activity, it is important to remember that claims that are submitted today may be selected for audit by RAC contractors in the future. October 1, 2016 is the last day a Recovery Auditor may send claim adjustment files to the MACs. [Read more.](#)

Early Bird Registration Ends August 1

AOPA National Assembly, September 8-11 in Boston, MA

Save up to \$100 by Registering before August 1! Earn more than 36 CEs, and enjoy the country's largest O&P exhibit hall. Choose your courses from 5 concurrent sessions for Orthotists, Prosthetists, Pedorthists, Technicians, Business Owners and Managers. [Register Now.](#)



DME MACs Release New Coding Guidelines for O&P Suppliers

AOPA is Currently Analyzing the Joint Bulletin

The four DME MACs recently released a joint correct coding bulletin reminding DMEPOS suppliers that it is each supplier's responsibility to select the proper HCPCS codes for billing. They suggest that suppliers should review the PDAC product classification lists, DME MAC publications/bulletins, and the LCDs & Policy Articles for guidance on proper coding of specific items and additional information on the characteristics of products that meet a specific HCPCS code. They also stated that most of the codes are written broadly to be all-inclusive and you should choose the HCPCS code that most closely describes the item you are providing; rather than choosing a NOC (not otherwise classified) or miscellaneous code. [Read the bulletin.](#)

\$30 Off the Illustrated Guide

Celebrating 30 Year Anniversary

We are celebrating 30 years of the easy-to-use O&P reference manual, AOPA's Illustrated Guide, with a \$30 off sale! The guide covers orthotics, prosthetics and shoes, and includes the HCPCS code for the official Medicare descriptor and an illustration for each code. And now it is \$30 off until August 30! [Shop now.](#)



Tom Watson, CP is 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

To be Honored at the 2016 National Assembly

AOPA will honor Thomas Watson, CP with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2016 AOPA National Assembly in Boston, MA. This award is bestowed on individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the orthotics and prosthetics profession.

He has run a successful business, been mayor of Owensboro, KY, past president of AOPA, a volunteer for numerous boards and organizations, and effective grassroots advocate for O&P. An easy choice for this year's award! [Read the full press release.](#)



Bureau of Labor and Statistics Releases CPI-U Update

CPI-U Increased by 1%, MFP to be Released in November

On July 15, the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) released its latest update on the Consumer Pricing Index for Urban Areas (CPI-U). From June 2015 through June 2016 the CPI-U increased by 1.0%. This figure is relevant to O&P providers because it is used as the base for determining the adjustment for the 2017 Medicare DMEPOS fee schedule. While the CPI-U increased by 1.0%, the Affordable Care Act, beginning in 2011, introduced a second factor that is used to determine the annual DMEPOS fee schedule, the Multi-Factor Productivity (MFP) Adjustment which is usually released in November. What this means is that the CPI-U of 1.0% minus the yet to be determined MPF adjustment will result in the update to the DMEPOS fee schedule that will be implemented for Medicare claims with a date of service on or after January 1, 2017. The MPF adjustment was -1.2% in 2011, 0.9% in 2012, 0.8% in 2013, 0.6% in 2014, and 0.5% in 2015. While the MPF adjustment has been trending downward, there is no guarantee that it will continue to do so in 2016. AOPA will monitor the BLS website for news regarding the MPF adjustment and will notify AOPA members as soon as it is released.

American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association,
330 John Carlyle St., Ste 200, Alexandria, VA 22314

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