

www.AOPAnet.org

March 17, 2017

AOPA Submits Comments on CMS' Qualified Provider Proposal

Comments Reflect our Support and our Concerns with the Rule as Written

On March 13, AOPA submitted comments on the CMS proposal "Proposed Rule on Medicare Requirements for Qualified Practitioners and Qualified Suppliers of Prosthetics and Custom-Fabricated Orthotics". This is the proposal that would enact the long awaited provisions of Section 1834(h) of the Social Security Act, which establishes requirements for qualified suppliers and qualified practitioners, and restricts payments to providers who don't meet those criteria.

AOPA gathered member input on the rule and prepared pre-written comments for members to submit - 181 members submitted comments to CMS through AOPAvotes.org. AOPA submitted its own comments that reflect our support of the rule, which is the first step toward ensuring that only qualified providers and suppliers provide prostheses and custom fabricated orthoses to Medicare beneficiaries. AOPA's comments include our opinion that the rule as written is overly broad and should include exceptions, and includes AOPA's concerns with enforcement mechanisms, the "equivalency to ABC or BOC standards", and the regulation of fabrication of O&P devices. [Read AOPA's Comments.](#)

AOPA Funded Systematic Review Published Through Open Access Journal

2015 Review by Dr. Michael Dillon about Partial Foot Amputation

In 2015, AOPA released a request for proposals for systematic reviews and ultimately selected three to fund. The review by Dr. Michael Dillon, PhD of La Trobe University titled "Outcomes of dysvascular partial foot amputation and how these compare to transtibial amputation: a systematic review for the development of shared decision-making resources" has now been accepted and published to the peer-reviewed, open access journal Systematic Reviews on the BioMed Central database. Read Dr. Dillon's systematic review, [Outcomes of dysvascular partial foot amputation and how these compare to transtibial amputation: a systematic review for the development of shared decision-making resources.](#)

Today is the Deadline to Book your Denver Hotel at Special Rate

AOPA Coding & Billing Seminar, April 10-11

Book your hotel in Denver today for AOPA's special rate of \$189 per night. Join AOPA April 10-11 to advance your O&P Practitioners' and billing staff's knowledge at this 2 day event, where you will earn 14 CEs and get up-to-date on all the hot topics. [Learn more.](#)



American Health Care Act Draft Legislation Released

AOPA's Counsel has Prepared a Summary

On March 6, 2017, both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Ways and Committee released draft legislation, the "American Health Care Act," to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). AOPA's health care counsel, Alston & Bird, has provided a broad overview of key issues and policies in the legislation. Among other things, the legislation (when taken together) would repeal the penalties associated with the individual and employer mandates retroactively to 2016. The legislation would allow insurance companies to impose a 30 percent late-enrollment surcharge on individual or small group market applicants who had a lapse in coverage for more than 63 days, phases out the ACA's Medicaid expansion and transitions the program to a per capita cap model, and eliminate a number of ACA taxes. The legislation would delay the "Cadillac Tax" on high cost health plans until 2025. The legislation also would preserve certain provisions of the ACA, including provisions that allow children to stay on their parents' insurance until age 26 and that require insurers to cover people with pre-existing conditions. [Read Alston & Bird's summary of issues in the current draft of the legislation.](#)

AOPA Pilot Research Grants Announced

16 Total Topics - Grants of up to \$15,000

The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association, in partnership with the Center for O&P Learning/Evidence-Based Practice (COPL), is proud to announce a Request for Pilot Grant Proposals in 16 potential areas of orthotic and prosthetic research including an open topic. AOPA and COPL will give preference to grants that address evidence-based clinical application in orthotics and prosthetics. The deadline for proposals is April 28, 2017. [See the full RFP.](#)

Registration is Open for the Policy Forum

May 24-25 in Washington, DC



Join AOPA May 24-25 in Washington, DC for the 2017 Policy Forum. The Policy Forum is your best opportunity to learn the latest legislative and regulatory details and how they will affect you, your business and your patients. Once you are armed with the facts, we as a profession will educate our members of Congress to offer common sense solutions and share how the O&P profession restores lives and puts people back to work. [Learn more and register.](#)

