



**American Orthotic &  
Prosthetic Association**

# AOPA in Advance

Breaking News for O&P Professionals

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### Newsletter Feedback

We invite your comments and questions. Please contact Steven Rybicki at [srybicki@AOPAnet.org](mailto:srybicki@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0835.

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Article Headline

## O&P NEWS

### With the Prospect of CMS Initiating Competitive Bidding for Off-the-Shelf Orthotics Comes Confusing "Business Opportunities"

With CMS giving some solid signs that it is considering the possibility of including off-the-shelf (OTS) orthotics in future competitive bidding, some confusing opportunities have begun to appear via mail, fax, email and phone calls to O&P patient care facilities. Here's a blinded excerpt of an offer that several AOPA members have reported to us.

"I have recently been contacted by a web based DME company that wants me to check out (i.e., inspect and fit) the braces that they have already sold to people over the internet. This feels as though they are trying to borrow my certification.

The company writes: "(Company Name) would like to retain your services as a Licensed Orthotist on an as-needed, independent contractor basis, to ensure that our customers, who have already been prescribed, sold, and received the necessary LSO, are able to correctly fit and adjust it for proper use in compliance with the requirements mandated by the CMS regarding supplying L0631 LSO. As an independent contractor your obligations would be to see the customer and simply fit and adjust the LSO on him or her within seven (7) business days of being contacted by (our company), as well as complete and return a form (via fax or email to [orthotist@company\\_email\\_address.com](mailto:orthotist@company_email_address.com)), that you would compose, evidencing that you saw the customer and that the LSO was fit and adjusted by you. If, for some reason, the customer requires a different size LSO, please inform me and have the customer return the LSO, and a new LSO will be shipped out immediately, at no cost to you or the customer. Within twenty-four (24) to forty-eight (48) hours after the receipt of the form evidencing that you have fit the LSO to our customer, (Company Name) will send you a check in the amount of \$25.00 as compensation for services rendered."

Many of the folks who have contacted **AOPA** about the inquiry they received from this company came away from their email or phone conversation with the impression that this company had already secured a successful bid agreement with CMS for O&P products.

**Fact:** At this writing, no Round Two competitive bidding announcement or product list has been issued by CMS that relates to orthotics and prosthetics, so NO COMPANY has secured a successful bid agreement with CMS for O&P products.

When orthotists consider such proposals, they ought to be aware of the statutory definition of OTS devices, as this term applies to any competitive bidding program CMS chooses to pursue for orthotics and prosthetics. Congress granted CMS authority several years ago to competitively bid OTS orthotics, provided these "off-the-shelf" orthotics fall within this definition:

Social Security Act section 1847(a)(2)(C) states: "(C) OFF-THE-SHELF ORTHOTICS.-Orthotics described in section 1861(s)(9) for which payment would otherwise be made under section 1834(h) which require minimal self-adjustment for appropriate use and do not require expertise in trimming,

bending, molding, assembling, or customizing to fit to the individual."

The circumstances described in the above narrative appear significantly different from traditional O&P patient care relationships. Bidding companies, such as the one who generated the communication above, may think they are bolstering their competitive bidding position if they assemble, and can point to a network of independent contractors who can address patient care needs. It should be noted that there is no limitation in CMS rules on use of subcontractors other than they must meet the supplier and quality standards. However, one must wonder how consistent such a "patient relationship" is with the limitations in the above definition of OTS orthotics. In short, isn't the need for "an independent contractor...to see the customer and simply fit and adjust the LSO on him or her..." a strong indication that this device actually falls outside the "minimal self-adjustment" criteria stipulated in the above statutory definition of "off-the-shelf orthotics," and therefore that the device falls outside those authorized for competitive bidding because it requires "trimming, bending, molding, assembling, or customizing to fit the individual"?

**AOPA** believes that the need for a patient relationship is the differentiating criteria. For a device to qualify as an OTS device there cannot be the need for any patient encounter related to fitting the device. Conversely, if any encounter between an orthotist and the patient is needed, that demonstrates unequivocally that the device requires more than "minimal self-adjustment" and therefore does not meet the definition of an off-the-shelf orthotic device, and cannot be legally included by CMS within competitive bidding.

Actually, **AOPA** believes that outreaches of the sort depicted by the communication from the potential bidding firm outlined above amount to "brokering" patient relationships. They are excellent examples of how far afield an overly aggressive CMS view of what constitutes "off-the-shelf" orthotics might take the traditional, long-term patient relationship customary for patients with lifetime conditions like multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and spina bifida.

We expect all of our patient care facility members will see, and need to adjudge the merits of many more of these "business opportunities," in the weeks and months ahead.

Questions? Contact Steven Rybicki at [srybicki@AOPAnet.org](mailto:srybicki@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0835.

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## Kathy Dodson Retires from AOPA

After 22 years of dedicated service, Kathy Dodson, Senior Director of Government Affairs, will be retiring from **AOPA** on June 30. Kathy's expertise in understanding O&P's place in a complex medical regulatory environment and her fluency with those associated topics, whether one-on-one with members or speaking to large groups or with the regulating bodies, has been of incalculable value to **AOPA** as an organization and to the field of O&P as a whole. Kathy has been an integral and devoted citizen of the O&P community and **AOPA** has benefitted from and continues to appreciate her contributions during her tenure. We wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement.

Kathy leaves the Government Affairs department of **AOPA** in the capable hands of Joe McTernan, Director of Coding & Reimbursement Services, Education, and Programming; Devon Bernard, Manager of Reimbursement Services; and Catherine Graf, Director of Regulatory Affairs. Kathy has agreed to continue work as a consultant to **AOPA** on a limited number of areas to assure continuity on key issues, and a smooth transition, so she will be present in Las Vegas during a portion of the **AOPA** National Assembly.

To extend your warm regards and wishes to Kathy, feel free to email her at [kdodson@AOPAnet.org](mailto:kdodson@AOPAnet.org).

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**UPDATE: AOPA Attends to Texas, the Latest State to Threaten Medicaid Cuts**

As reported in the June 14 issue of *AIA*, **AOPA** been alerted to another threat to cut Medicaid payments to O&P, this time in Texas. The Texas legislature is holding a special session to finish passing a budget for the state and is considering a 12.5% cut to O&P reimbursements within the state's Medicaid budget over fiscal years 2011 and 2012. **AOPA** has been providing support to the Texas Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (TOPA), crafting an ad for placement in newspapers and is distributing a letter to O&P patient care providers in the state to alert them to the Medicaid cuts and how to register their opposition to the cuts with their state representatives.

[Click here to see the ad.](#)

[Click here to read portions of the Texas Budget Conference Committee Report relevant to O&P.](#)

[Click here to access and search the entire Texas Budget Conference Committee Report.](#)

**AOPA** has received an update from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission regarding the rate hearing that will take place on July 12 to consider the issue of reimbursement cuts.

[Click here to read the announcement regarding the rate hearing for Texas Medicaid.](#)

**AOPA** will continue to update members about the status of the O&P cuts in Texas. **AOPA** also encourages you to view AOPA and the Amputee Coalition's 30-second television commercial defending O&P from Medicaid cuts. The commercial is hosted online at <http://www.LimbsAreEssential.org> and **AOPA** has created a "Take Action" advocacy page where anyone who wants to support O&P may send a letter to their state and federal legislators, urging them to join the fight to protect these vulnerable citizens with mobility impairments.

[Click here to view the LimbsAreEssential.org site and the PSA.](#)

And **AOPA** wants to remind members that they are encouraged to recommend the [LimbsAreEssential.org](http://www.LimbsAreEssential.org) site patients, colleagues, or friends who are angered by irresponsible Medicaid cuts.

Questions? Contact Steven Rybicki at [srybicki@AOPAnet.org](mailto:srybicki@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0835.

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## **LAST WEEK TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS: June 30 deadline for AOPA's RFP for Prosthetic Knee Research and Grant of as much as \$250,000**

As announced in March in the *AIA* newsletter, **AOPA** is interested in promoting research focused on improving the knowledge about, and quality of prosthetic modalities available to Medicare-aged amputee patients requiring prosthetic knees, and comparing outcomes and effectiveness of various types of devices. The research should measure performance of newer microprocessor prosthetic knees, as compared to conventional non-microprocessor controlled prosthetic knees. This **AOPA** RFP solicits, and will consider high-quality proposals for a single project with a one-time award in an amount projected to be \$250,000.

[Click here to read the entire RFP.](#)

**The extended deadline for proposals is now June 30, 2011.** Successful applicants will be notified by August 1, 2011, with availability of this support to begin September 1, 2011. Reasonable efforts must be made to obtain Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval in compliance with this time line. The study should be completed within two years of the date of the award.

**Applications should be sent to:**

Research Committee  
American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association  
330 John Carlyle Street  
Suite 200  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Questions should be directed to: Thomas Fise, at the address above, or [tfise@AOPAnet.org](mailto:tfise@AOPAnet.org). Applicants **should not** contact individual microprocessor prosthetic knee manufacturers with questions regarding this AOPA RFP.

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## Manufacturers' Coding Workshop: What You Don't Know about Coding Can Hurt You!

Join **AOPA** and hear representatives from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) discuss current coding issues and learn the ins-and-outs of coding applications, as well as hints on coding success, from speakers experienced in coding issues. If you are interested in joining this executive level group and learning how to obtain an L Code; assuring that O&P providers will be paid for new products; and helping to make sure that reimbursements for your existing products are up-to-date and current with CMS policies and with amounts legitimately being reimbursed for comparable products then make plans to join AOPA from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM in Baltimore on Thursday, July 21.

*The workshop will help you be able to answer these questions and more:*

- How does coding affect product sales?
- When in the product lifecycle should you consider coding?
- Does the name of a device affect payment?
- Who makes the final decision on what devices receive codes?
- Can you get a brand name code?
- Do Medicare codes affect private payers?
- What do I do if my code application is rejected?

**AOPA** has negotiated the incredible room rate of \$109 per night at the Doubletree by Hilton Baltimore BWI Hotel. Make your room reservation today by calling (410) 859-8400. Space is limited and this incredible room rate won't last long. **AOPA** has secured a limited number of rooms at this fantastic rate, space is limited so be sure book your room today, but no later than June 29 when any remaining rooms in the block will be released.

[Click here to register for the Manufacturers' Coding Workshop.](#)

Questions? Contact Ann Davis at [adavis@AOPAnet.org](mailto:adavis@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0876.

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## PDAC Announces Coding Verification Requirement for L0174 Cervical Orthoses

The Pricing, Data Analysis, and Coding (PDAC) contractor recently announced that as of August 1, 2011, all products classified under L0174 must undergo a coding review in order to be eligible for Medicare reimbursement, any existing products that have been classified by PDAC under L0174 will

be end dated as of August. These products must be resubmitted to PDAC for a new and independent review. After August 1, 2011, any orthosis that is billed using L0174 that has not been reviewed and approved by the PDAC will be denied by Medicare.

[Click here to view the PDAC product classification lists.](#)

Questions? Contact Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0854, or Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jmcternan@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0811.

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## HIPAA 5010 Transition: Deadline is Approaching

In less than six months, all HIPAA covered entities (suppliers, health plans, clearinghouses, billing services, etc.) will be required to use the new HIPAA 5010 format for all HIPAA covered electronic transactions (claims submissions, remittance notices, claim status requests, etc.). If you do not make the switch to the HIPAA 5010 format before January 1, 2012, you will experience delays in processing your claims with both Medicare and private payers, as the current 4010 format will not be accepted after January 1, 2012.

To help you in the transition, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has created a transition checklist and a readiness assessment tool.

[Click here to access the transition checklist.](#)

[Click here to access the readiness assessment tool.](#)

Here are some other helpful links from the Common Electronic Data Interchange (CEDI), the entity which handles all front-end processing duties for the four DME MAC jurisdictions, website:

[HIPAA 5010 Medicare Fee-For-Service Companion Guide.](#)

[HIPAA 5010 Frequently Asked Questions.](#)

Questions? Contact Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0854, or Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jmcternan@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0811.

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## Announcing AOPA's Final Coding & Billing Seminar of 2011: October 24-25 in Baltimore

Don't miss out on the third and final Coding & Billing seminar of 2011 on October 24-25 at the [Sheraton Inner Harbor](#) in Baltimore, Maryland. Be sure to register early and take advantage of the early bird registration savings and the special low room rate of \$159 per night.

At this seminar, **AOPA** experts will 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 and your colleagues and much more. This two day event will feature break-out sessions for both practitioners and office staff.

### In the breakout session Practitioners will cover:

- General Coding Principles
- "Hands on" coding of specific devices
- Proper coding for repairs and adjustments
- Reimbursement for unlisted codes
- Codes that are mutually exclusive and should not be billed together



**In the breakout session Administrators will cover:**

- Updated Quality and Supplier Standards
- Strategies for handling appeals and denials
- How to handle unique billing situations
- Documentation Requirements
- Medicare as Secondary Payer

[Click here to register for the Baltimore Coding & Billing Seminar.](#)

[Click here to reserve your room at the Sheraton Inner Harbor and take advantage of the low Coding & Billing Seminar rate of \\$159 per night or call \(410\) 962-8300. Be sure to mention the AOPA Seminar to receive the \\$159 per night rate.](#)

Questions? Contact Ann Davis at [adavis@AOPAnet.org](mailto:adavis@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0876.

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## O&P PAC Corner

The O&P PAC Corner provides updates on the activities of the O&P PAC, including the names of individuals who have made recent donations to the O&P PAC and the names of candidates the O&P PAC has supported.

The O&P PAC recently received donations from the following **AOPA** members (Due to publishing deadlines this list was created on 6/21/2011 and includes only donations received between 6/10/2011 and 6/21/2011. Any donations received on or after 6/21/2011 will be published in the next issue of the A/A):

- Thomas DiBello, CO, FAAOP
- Rick Fleetwood

The purpose of the O&P PAC is to advocate for legislative or political interests at the federal level, which have an impact on the orthotic and prosthetic community. The O&P PAC achieves this goal by working closely with members of the House and Senate to educate them about the issues, and help elect those individuals who support the orthotic and prosthetic community.

In order to participate in and receive information about the O&P PAC, federal law mandates that you must first sign an authorization form.

[Click here to view and sign an O&P PAC authorization form.](#)

Questions? Contact Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0854, or Joe McTernan at [jmcternan@AOPAnet.org](mailto:jmcternan@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0811.

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## 2011 National Assembly News: Donations Needed for the AOPA Wine Tasting and Auction

For the fourth year, **AOPA** is hosting a wine tasting and auction to benefit **AOPA's** Government Relations outreach. Quickly becoming one of the most anticipated Assembly events, the auction offers a chance to learn about and taste a variety of wines, including some made by your fellow members. Donations for auction are now being accepted.

We look forward to seeing you Tuesday, September 20, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM for a friendly bidding war

or two!

[Click here to access the Wine Donation Form.](#)

We would like to thank the following individuals who have already donated to the Wine Tasting & Auction:

- Thomas DiBello, CO, FAAOP & Leslie DiBello
- Dave Edwards, CPO, FAAOP & Kathy Edwards, CFm
- Rick Fleetwood
- Richard Gingras, CPO, BOCOP & Marbee Gingras
- James Kaiser, CP & Dianne Kaiser
- Anita Liberman-Lamphear, MA & Alan Lamphear
- Jon Leimkuehler, CPO, FAAOP & Ellen Leimkuehler
- Claudia Zacharias, MBA, CAE

Questions? Contact Steven Rybicki at [srybicki@AOPAnet.org](mailto:srybicki@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0835.

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## 2011 National Assembly: Announcing the New O&P Business Certificate Program and General Registration Information for the Place to Be

The **AOPA** National Assembly is "The Place to Be" September 19-22 for an O&P meeting experience like no other-win great prizes, attend interactive education programs, participate in roundtable discussions, take part in fun events, earn CE credits and learn at hands-on workshops. Be among the first to participate in the new O&P Business Certificate Program-Take the first step in earning your business certificate by attending the extensive 2-hour course: Financial Management Profitability Tools-Using Cost Accounting to Maximize Your Practice's Profitability. Preview the Preliminary Program. [Click here to access the Preliminary Program.](#)

[Click here to register online.](#)

Hotel Reservations: **AOPA** has negotiated the incredible room rate of \$135 per night at the Mirage Resort in Las Vegas. Make your room reservation today by calling [\(800\) 627-6667](tel:8006276667). Book your room today as this great room rate won't last long. Hotel reservation cut off is August 4 at this rate.

Questions? Call **AOPA** at (571) 431-0876 or email [assembly@AOPAnet.org](mailto:assembly@AOPAnet.org) or visit [www.AOPAnet.org](http://www.AOPAnet.org).

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## 2011 National Assembly: A Call for Poster Presentations

Present your research findings or a particular case study via a poster presentation at the 2011 **AOPA** National Assembly, September 19-22, Las Vegas. Poster presentations should be a graphical display in a poster format using photographs, diagrams, flowcharts and graphs and any sample educational materials. Applications for poster presentations will be accepted through July 2011. [Click here to submit a poster presentation.](#)

For further information, contact Tina Moran at (571) 431-0808 or [tmoran@AOPAnet.org](mailto:tmoran@AOPAnet.org).

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## 2011 National Assembly: The 2011 Fall Thranhardt Golf Classic

Missed your invitation to play in the British Open? Not to worry. On Monday, September 19 you can still play 18 of the best holes from 11 different British Open rotation courses, including two holes from this year's British Open. Better still they are all on one golf course located less than 9 miles from the



the year's British Open. Better still, they are all on one golf course located less than 5 miles from the heart of the Las Vegas Strip. This is not your typical round of golf. You will play at the Royal Links Golf Club in Las Vegas, NV, and whether you are into the history of the game or just want a shot at Tiger Woods' course record of 67 (Feb., 2001), Royal Links and your O&P friends will provide you with some great golfing memories.

The tournament will be held in conjunction with the **AOPA** National Assembly and will benefit two Great Causes and one great course make it not just golf, but a golf experience. For the third year in a row **AOPA's** Capitol Connection and OPAF have joined forces to co-sponsor this great event to benefit the inspiring efforts of OPAF and the legislative, research and education efforts of the Capitol Connection to further the O&P policy agenda.

[Click here to register for the 2011 Fall Thranhardt Golf Classic.](#)

For further information, contact Tina Moran at (571) 431-0808 or [tmoran@AOPAnet.org](mailto:tmoran@AOPAnet.org).

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## Join AOPA for the July 13 Audio Conference "Don't Rile the OSHA Police"

OSHA is the Federal Agency tasked with ensuring the health and safety of the workplace in the United States. Compliance with OSHA regulations is mandatory and failure to comply may lead to unnecessary and dangerous working conditions. Join **AOPA** on July 13, 2011 for an hour long Audio Conference addressing OSHA requirements for O&P facilities and why compliance is such an important part of your business operations. An **AOPA** expert will address the following issues during the Audio Conference:

- What is OSHA and how does it affect your facility's operations
- How to comply with OSHA regulations
- Correcting issues of non-compliance
- What to do if an OSHA inspector comes to your facility
- Educating your staff on OSHA compliance
- How to properly report workplace injuries or incidents

The cost of participating is \$99 per line for **AOPA** members (\$199 for nonmembers) and any number of employees may listen on a given line. Listeners can earn 1.5 continuing education credits by returning the provided quiz within 30 days and scoring at least 80 percent. Contact Devon Bernard at [dbernard@AOPAnet.org](mailto:dbernard@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0854 with content questions.

[Click here to register online.](#)

Questions? Contact Ann Davis at [adavis@AOPAnet.org](mailto:adavis@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0876.

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## O&P RESOURCES FROM AOPA

### Check Out the AOPA Job Board for New Opportunities in O&P

If you need a position filled at your business or are interested in looking at other job possibilities within the O&P field, check out the [AOPA Online Job Board](#). The online job board sports a freshly updated look and an easy-to-navigate profile creation system.

In the past month the Job Board has been viewed over 8,000 times by more than 1,500 unique users. If you want people to find out about a job opening at your facility or are interested in posting your resume for employers to view for potential openings, visit the [AOPA Online Job Board](#) today.

And remember: if you advertise on the Online Job Board and decide to also advertise in the *O&P Almanac*, then you'll receive a 5 percent discount on the cost of advertising in the *Almanac* and on the Job Board.

Questions? Contact Steven Rybicki at [srybicki@AOPAnet.org](mailto:srybicki@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0835.

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## The 2011 Audio Conference Series from AOPA

Numerous offices have benefited from their participation in **AOPA's** Medicare Audio Conferences. These one hour sessions come to you in the comfort of your office on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm Eastern. This series provides an outstanding opportunity for you and your staff to stay abreast of the latest hot topics in O&P, as well as gain clarification and ask questions on topics that you may not understand as fully as you would like to.

Seminars are still priced at just \$99 per line for members (\$199 for non-members). Buy the series and get two free; members pay just \$990 and non-members pay \$1990. If you purchase all the conferences, all conferences from months prior to your purchase of the set will be sent to you as CDs.

These convenient one hour telephone seminars are designed to fit easily into your busy schedule. Any practitioners needing credit can get 1.5 per audio conference by returning the provided quiz within 30 days and scoring at least 80%. Billing staff and others who don't need credit can nonetheless gain information they will use right away. The topics for 2011 are:

- January 12: How to Meet the New Medicare Supplier Standards (Available on CD)
- Feb. 9: Using the Lower Limb Medical Policy to Your Advantage (Available on CD)
- March 9: Enhance Your Claims Success, Two Letters at a Time (Available on CD)
- April 13: Improving Clinical Documentation (Available on CD)
- May 11: Which Box to Check? The Negative Effect of the 855S on Reimbursement (Available on CD)
- June 8: Preventing Audit Disasters (Available on CD)
- July 13: Don't Rile the OSHA Police
- August 10: How to Get Paid for Miscellaneous and Repair Codes
- September 14: Don't Run Afoul of the KO Rules
- October 12: Developing Your Medicare Billing Compliance Plan
- November 9: Happy Holidays: Kickbacks and Gifts in O&P
- December 14: Are You Ready for the New Year? 2012 New Codes and Policies

[Click here to register for any 2011 Audio Conference.](#)

If you miss an audio conference, it will be available on CD after the fact. Cost is the same as if you participate live (\$99/\$199). We hope you'll be able to join us for this year's series.

Questions? Contact Ann Davis at [adavis@AOPAnet.org](mailto:adavis@AOPAnet.org) or (571) 431-0876.

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## O&P INSIDER'S TRACK

### *The Only Up-to-the Minute O&P Newsline*

### In Memoriam

**AOPA** received the following remembrance from Jerry Swanson, CP of Larry Rohling, CO, who passed away on June 11:

"Larry was well loved and respected by all of us, but he was especially dedicated to the young pediatric patients he worked with, and they were all just crazy about him," said Jerry Swanson, CP, and president of Alabama O&P. "He and I were friends and worked together for more than 30 years. I will miss him both professionally and personally."

Rohling served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was educated at Columbia State Community College and Northwestern University. He was co-owner of Alabama O&P for many years, before leaving to open his own practice in Florence in 1990. In 1994, he sold his practice to Alabama O&P and worked there until his death.

Larry, who passed away on June 11, 2011 at the age of 63 will be sorely missed by the Alabama P&O community, and his family: wife Beth Chance Rohling; daughter Jamie Beddingfield; son Stuart Rohling; and his four grandchildren: Kaileigh, -Skylaur and Pazlie Beddingfield, and Kyla Rohling.

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## People in the News

The Greater New York Council of the Boy Scouts of America has honored **Steven Mirones**, president of the prosthetics firm [Arimed](#), with the exclusive Silver Beaver Award for his "countless contributions to the youth of Brooklyn and as an outstanding example of entrepreneurial spirit." The presentation was made at the Brooklyn Council's Annual Recognition Dinner on June 16, 2011.

The [Orthotic & Prosthetic Assistance Fund](#) (OPAF) announced that the 2011 Dale Yasukawa Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to **Adam McFarlane**, a member of the Northwestern University Blended Learning Program Class 11 and an orthotic resident with [Clark & Associates](#) of Waterloo, Iowa.

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## Businesses in the News

[OPAF](#) & The First Clinics announced **Strobel & Associates Prosthetics, Inc.** of Plano, Texas as a Patron Level Sponsor for 2011. Additionally, OPAF announced the successful launch of First Climb. The clinic was led by renowned amputee rock climber, **Ronnie Dickson** and sponsored by [Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates](#) (POA).

[Orthotic and Prosthetic Group of America](#) (OPGA) announced a new partnership with [DeRoyal](#).

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## Send Us Your News!

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