



## A TOPIC AOPA IS WORKING ON THAT IS IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF YOUR BUSINESS

### Make It Easy on Yourself—Earn Needed Continuing Education (CE) Credits Through AOPA's 24/7 Online Distance Learning Offering!



AOPA members can earn a total of 22.75 CE's if completing all of the various online learning experiences AOPA offers on its web site. And that's just the beginning. AOPA's enhanced IT infrastructure will accommodate almost an unlimited offering as more and more material becomes available. Right now, more than 100 presentations from the 2010 and 2011 National Assembly posted online at [www.AOPAnetonline.org/education](http://www.AOPAnetonline.org/education) provide 4.75 credits. Take a few minutes and review the index. See how many the subject areas you'd just like to access for a quick refresher or entirely new knowledge path.

#### The Core of the Issue

Finding time to maintain certification is a challenge. Certifying organizations require certain levels of on-going professional development to ensure the best possible quality of patient care. The challenge for everyone in the O&P field is how to carve out the time—yes, and the expense, to continue personal development. Certainly, the state and national meetings that provide on-site learning experiences provide credits in a very short time. The AOPA National Assembly offers up to 34 credit earning opportunities. Even the monthly AOPA audio conferences only require completion of a brief quiz to earn one and one half credits. Yet, another route exists for earning credits—and that route is **AOPAversity's online portfolio of distance learning opportunities**. The advantage is of course the 24/7 access. If you're a night owl, it might be the perfect way to spend those late hours. If you're an early bird, wide-eyed and bushy tailed at the crack of dawn, there's another window of opportunity. It's a perfect way to spend a lunch hour boning up on a knowledge gap.

#### Why Is It Important To You?

Stop and think about it. Yes, the credits are important but what's more important is the knowledge gained that improves your ability to provide quality patient care and also learn how you can operate a more successful O&P business if you are the chief decision maker. On the management side the new AOPA Business Certificate Program enables practitioners and non-practitioner administrators and executives to focus on education experiences which help improve the bottom line—and it's the bottom line that pays the rent. The certificate program requires certain courses which will mostly be offered at the AOPA National Assembly but there are always new materials being added to the elective list which frequently will be found online at the AOPA website and other venues.

On the clinical side the robust AOPA [www.AOPAnetonline.org/education](http://www.AOPAnetonline.org/education) site offers videos and audio presentations from prior National Assembly programs. These are not only great for collecting some additional CE's (not all courses qualify for CE's) but can provide some immediate solutions to vexing patient care questions that are not easily resolved. Many folks keep the Program and Directory from past National Assembly gatherings and they can also be a content index for what you might find on the AOPA education web site, especially for those you can't be in two places at one time offerings during the National Assembly. Of course you can also go to the AOPA website at [www.AOPAnetonline.org](http://www.AOPAnetonline.org) education to view the full range of distance learning sessions available, including those that offer CE's, as well as those for your personal enrichment without credit options.



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It's important to know what the offerings are because you may also find these AOPA online distant learning tools terrific training materials for people in your organization seeking to upgrade their management or clinical skills. The nine unit Mastering Medicare webcast available on the site is a terrific introduction and is really a how to get reimbursed 101 course that is perfect for practitioners and administrators who need a foundation learning experience on how the entire billing and LCode process works.

### What Is AOPA Doing About This?

The question should probably be "What Has AOPA Done" because most of the infrastructure to make possible the technology to bring 24/7 learning to AOPA members has been a three year project that began in 2010. The entire website was regenerated on a more robust platform to host extensive distance learning that could better serve the needs of members in this world of "bring it to me." And

while the infrastructure part is almost in place, the question "What Is AOPA Doing About This?" is still valid because the infrastructure improvements and the addition of more varied and useful content is an ongoing obligation of AOPA's effort to serve members.

We hope you'll take advantage of this extensive learning opportunity, currently available without charge to AOPA members except for the Mastering Medicare webcast, and discover another answer to the question—"what have you done for me today?"

Very truly yours,



Thomas F. Fise, JD  
AOPA Executive Director

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## EXPERT CODING ADVICE 24/7

- The O&P coding expertise you've come to rely on is now available whenever you need it.
- Match products to L codes and manufacturers—anywhere you connect to the Internet.
- This exclusive service is available only for AOPA members.

Contact Michael Chapman at 571/431-0843  
or [mchapman@AOPAnet.org](mailto:mchapman@AOPAnet.org).



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