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**American Orthotic &  
Prosthetic Association**

# AOPA in Advance

## Breaking News for O&P Professionals

February 26, 2010

SPECIAL EDITION

### O&P News

#### Summary of Blair House Health Care Summit

Even if you're not a policy wonk, the summary of yesterday's Health Care Summit hosted by President Obama still makes for interesting reading, if not compelling political theater. Nothing new or groundbreaking emerged from the summit, but positions were staked out more clearly and the stage was set for a health care measure to be considered under Senate rules that forbid the filibuster.

AOPA members will be interested to know that: (1) when President Obama announced his health care reform plan earlier this week, which largely mirrors the Senate Finance Committee bill, one of the new wrinkles was inclusion of a proposed study on implementing a universal product numbering system as a means of fighting fraud and abuse in DME and O&P; and (2) one downside of a political process that has the first step of having the House adopt the Senate bill is that the text of the Senate bill is less favorable both in defining the O&P benefit and with inclusion of targeted fee schedule reductions in later years, called productivity adjustments. AOPA will be trying to swim upstream, in a sense, to convince legislators to adopt the more favorable House provision on these topics in the expected "budget reconciliation" refinements to the bill that would be expected to follow House enactment of the Senate bill.

A nine page summary was prepared by AOPA's lobbying team at Alston & Bird.

[Click here for the summary.](#)

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

### Send Us Your News!

The next **AOPA in Advance** will arrive in your inbox on March 9. So if you have a new employee or a new office, tell us! Share your news with the over 15,000 readers of the *O&P Almanac* and **AOPA In Advance** newsletter. Contact Steven Rybicki at [srybicki@AOPAnet.org](mailto:srybicki@AOPAnet.org).

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