August 31, 2015

Take Action: Send your letter to Dr. Brennan by midnight tonight!

All BOC Constituents,

Thank you for signing the petition, sending letters, and spreading the word to encourage the rescinding of the DME MACs'1 joint publication of the draft LCD2 for lower limb prosthetic coverage. We have made tremendous progress, but still need your support.

If you have not already done so, please send a letter to DME MAC Medical Director Stacey Brennan and your Congressional representatives by midnight TONIGHT and voice your concerns. AOPA has prepared pre-written letters specifically designed for practitioners and professionals or prosthetic patients and both letters can be found here.

The **joint DME MAC public meeting** on **August 26, 2015** was well-attended by amputees and practitoners alike. BOC was well-represented at this meeting, and approximately 50 speakers shared their thoughts about the LCD for lower limb prostheses. We are very proud of the BOC-certified practitioners -- including **Jeff Zeller, BOCPO, CP** and **Jeff Arnette, BOCPO, CPO** -- who spoke at this meeting! BOC'S Regulatory & Legislative Analyst **Zack Chait** and I also were present.

Although the stories and facts presented at this meeting were powerful and compelling, **those public comments will NOT be used to re-evaluate the Draft LCD. Medicare will only consider WRITTEN COMMENTS**. The more comments we send, the stronger our unified voice will be.

We will continue to provide updates and additional ways for you to voice your opposition to this proposal on our Facebook page and the News page of this website. I am available to answer any questions you may have. You may contact me at wendy.miller@bocusa.org.

With thanks and regards,

Wendy Miller, BOCO, LO, CDME
Chief Credentialing Officer

P.S. *Please encourage your friends and colleagues to send a letter to Medicare and your representatives in Congress* ***before midnight tonight!***

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1. DME MAC: Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors

2. LCD: Local Coverage Determination

August 20, 2015

Urgent: Pre-register for the August 26 Public Meeting ASAP!

All BOC Constituents,

I'm pleased to report that there has been an overwhelming response to the invitation to attend the **joint DME MAC public meeting** on **August 26, 2015** in Linthicum, Maryland. The registration numbers have been so numerous that the decision was made to move the event to a larger venue **(The Westin Hotel)** and begin a half hour earlier; **7:30AM instead of 8:00AM**.

If you tried to register and were told the event was full, please try again. Although the capacity has been increased to **400 seats**, the event will most likely fill up again, so **please pre-register ASAP** if you'd like to attend as a listener or as a presenter. Details about this meeting and a link to pre-register can be found here.

Please keep in mind that everyone *who wishes to participate, whether in-person or via teleconference,* ***must pre-register; the deadline for pre-registering is still this Friday, August 21.***

Four different issues will be discussed at this meeting, and the last issue that will be discussed is the Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for lower limb prostheses. This meeting will provide only a limited opportunity for oral presentations, but even your silent participation speaks volumes.

Presenters who have pre-registered to speak should bring a thumb drive with their comments on it or send it electronically to Dr. Brennan at DMAC_DRAFT_LCD_Comments@anthem.com, before or after the hearing so she can distribute them to the other medical directors.

With thanks and regards,

James L. Hewlett, BOCO
Chair, Board of Directors
Board of Certification/Accreditation (BOC)

P.S. *Your presence at this event is important, but your voice needs to be heard. Register as a presenter to make sure Medicare knows exactly how this proposal would impact your patients and your practice.*

August 18, 2015

We've gathered over 100,000 signatures, but our work is not done!

All BOC Constituents,

Thank you for signing the petition created to rescind the DME MACs'[1] joint publication of a draft LCD[2] for lower limb prosthetic coverage, and for spreading the word so that others could lend their support as well.

Our next objective is to encourage as many members of the O&P community as possible to call in or attend a **joint DME MAC public meeting** on **August 26, 2015** from 8:00AM EDT until 12:00PM EDT in Linthicum, Maryland. Four different issues will be discussed at this meeting, one of which is the Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for lower limb prostheses. This meeting will provide only a limited opportunity for oral presentations, but even your silent participation speaks volumes.

Everyone who wishes to participate, whether in-person or via teleconference, **must pre-register; the deadline for pre-registering is this Friday, August 21**. Details about this meeting and a link to pre-register can be found here.

Also, if you have not already done so, please **send a letter to DME MAC Medical Director Stacey Brennan and your Congressional representatives** to voice your concerns. AOPA has prepared pre-written letters specifically designed for practitioners and professionals or prosthetic patients and both letters can be found here.

We will continue to provide updates and additional ways for you to voice your opposition to this proposal on our Facebook page and the News page of this website.

Zack Chait, BOC's Regulatory & Legislative Analyst, is available to answer any questions you may have. You may contact him at zack.chait@bocusa.org.

With thanks and regards,

James L. Hewlett, BOCO
Chair, Board of Directors
Board of Certification/Accreditation (BOC)

SAVE PROSTHETIC CARE
send your letter by August 31!
bocusa.org/SaveProsthetics

P.S. *If you have not already done so, please:*

- ***Sign up by this Friday*** *to phone in or attend the DME LCD Open Comment Meeting on* ***August 26.***
- *Send a letter to Medicare and your representatives in Congress before* ***August 31****.*
- *Pass this on to your friends and colleagues!*

1. DME MAC: Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors

2. LCD: Local Coverage Determination

August 12, 2015

Important Follow-Up to My August 5 Email

All BOC Constituents,

We have made excellent progress in our mission to gather 100,000 signatures by August 31, 2015 on the petition created to rescind the DME MACs' for lower limb prosthetic coverage. As I press "send" on this email, the petition has more than 65,000 signatures! Thank you for your help!

Here are a few additional tools to help you learn more about this proposal and encourage your colleagues and patients to take action against it:

• The Amputee Coalition posted a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions page to their website that addresses many concerns about the draft proposal.

• AOPA created a "We the People" patient poster that you can print and display in your reception area or patient treatment room and a postcard that you can print and mail out to your patients.

• Consider creating a logo for your email signature (see BOC's logo below as an example) that encourages others to sign the petition. With every email you send, you're helping to get the word out. You are welcome to copy and use BOC's "sign the petition" logo.

We will continue to provide updates and additional options for you to voice your opposition to this proposal on our Facebook page and the News page of this website.

Zack Chait, BOC's Regulatory & Legislative Analyst, is available to answer any questions you may have. You may contact him at zack.chait@bocusa.org.

With thanks and regards,

James L. Hewlett, BOCO
Chair, Board of Directors
Board of Certification/Accreditation (BOC)

***P.S.** If you have not done so already, please **take action as soon as possible** and add your name to the list of White House petition signatures before **August 31, 2015**. And please pass this on to your friends and neighbors — Remember, we need **100,000** signatures!*

1. DME MAC: Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors

2. LCD: Local Coverage Determination

August 5, 2015

To All BOC Constituents,

You undoubtedly have heard about the DME MACs'[1] joint publication of a draft LCD[2] for lower limb prosthetic coverage. BOC and our sister organizations within the orthotics & prosthetics (O&P) community are concerned that if this proposal becomes policy, new coverage, coding, and clinical care guidelines will **drastically restrict** amputees' access to lower limb prosthetics. For a more detailed look at the potential effects of this proposal, please review this executive summary from the American Orthotic Prosthetic Association (AOPA).

Every member of the O&P community needs to **take action now! If you do nothing else, please sign a very important petition** that asks the Obama administration to rescind this proposal. If the petition garners **100,000 signatures in 30 days** (by **August 31, 2015**), the White House staff will review it, send it to the appropriate policy experts, and issue an official response.

Practitioners also may submit comments on the proposed policy to their Senators and Congressional Representatives by easily customizing a letter created by AOPA.

Please help amputees make their voices heard, too. Encourage them to submit their comments to their Senators and Congressmen; a link to a **patient letter** may be found here.

Over the next few weeks, we will be providing updates and additional options for you to voice your opposition to this proposal, so be sure to follow our Facebook page and visit the News page of this website. Please help spread the word to colleagues, friends, patients, and others to enlist their support, as well. If you have questions about the proposed policy or the actions we have suggested, please contact Zack Chait, BOC's Regulatory & Legislative Analyst at zack.chait@bocusa.org.

With thanks and regards,

James L. Hewlett, BOCO
Chair, Board of Directors
Board of Certification/Accreditation (BOC)

P.S. *We urge you to* ***take action as soon as possible*** *and add your name to the list of White House petition signatures before* ***August 31, 2015****. And please pass this on to your friends and neighbors — Remember, we need 100,000 signatures!*

1. DME MAC: Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors

2. LCD: Local Coverage Determination