



Academy Leader

Executive Brief

New Ohio Chapter Bylaws in Effect

In September 2002, the Ohio Chapter members approved a number of changes in the Chapter's bylaws, the most significant of which creates a new category of membership and redefines who is considered an Active Member and eligible to vote.

Essentially the bylaws now state that individuals who are licensed in the State of Ohio and are members of the American Academy for Orthotists and Prosthetists are eligible for Active membership in the Ohio Chapter. Active Members are eligible to vote in all Chapter elections and hold office in the Chapter.

The bylaws change also created a new category of membership, the Associate category which includes those:

- 1) who hold current "Registered Associate" or "Technician" certification from The American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics, or;

- 2) who hold current BOC Orthotic Fitter/Mastectomy Fitter Certification from the Board for Orthotist/Prosthetist Certification.
- 3) Any certified or licensed individual who wishes to receive Associate Member discounts for Chapter meetings and other member benefits.

Associate Members are not eligible to vote or hold office in the Chapter.

These changes were made in recognition of the changes licensure has brought and the expanding need for educational programs for Ohio O&P and C.Ped practitioners, as well as standardizing definitions (or the recognition) of technicians and nonmembers.

These changes expand what the Chapter is, and the population it seeks to serve. ■■

Legislation on Fast Track

Physical Therapists Push For Self-Referral with Senate Bill 35

Senate Bill 35 passed the Senate after only three hearings in committee. The bill will permit, under certain circumstances, the practice of physical therapy other than pursuant to the prescription or referral of a physician, dentist, podiatrist or chiropractor.

The bill does not change the current definition of physical therapy, which includes "the design, fabrication, revision,

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Amendments May Reopen Door to Qualified Practitioners

If enacted, proposed legislation to amend the Practice Act for Orthotists, Prosthetists and Pedorthists may re-open the door to experienced, qualified O & P practitioners who missed the opportunity for Grandfathering, or who otherwise were unable to meet the initial requirements for licensing as currently set forth in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4779.

New Window of Opportunity

On a time-limited basis — until January 1, 2005 — experienced practitioners with less than a 4-year college degree would have a new opportunity to gain Board approval to take the Ohio licensing examination. Qualified individuals are:

- ♦ those with an Associates Degree, by documenting at least 2 years' experience, at least 6 months of which has been under supervision
- ♦ those with a high school diploma or GED, by documenting at least 3 years' experience, while also possessing ABC or BOC certification.

Five other "pathways" are also defined in the proposal as the permanent minimum qualifications for examination. Each requires a Bachelor's degree, various combinations of work experience, residency programs, certificate programs, and national certifications are set forth as "options" to

demonstrate competence to test for the exam.

Supervision refinements

The working draft would also:

- ♦ allow the Board to define by rule the type of supervised experience that qualifies for licensure, eliminating the requirement that such experience only be gained under an Ohio-licensed practitioner;
- ♦ eliminate the requirement that an out-of-state licensee seeking licensure by reciprocity document a term of supervised experience;
- ♦ lessen from 8 months to 4 months the supervised experience requirement for pedorthist candidates.

Other changes include:

- ♦ establishing an "Inactive License" status for licensees not practicing in Ohio, or practicing under another licensee's supervision
- ♦ reducing from 75 to 60 the number of CE units that dual-licensed Prosthetist-Orthotists will need to accumulate during a three-year period
- ♦ establishing provisions for reinstatement of a lapsed license, and restoration of a suspended license.

Licensees can stay in touch with these changes at the Board's website, www.state.oh.us/bopp. ■■

Jonathan Naft Named to Board

Jonathan Naft, CP has been named to serve as Vice President on the Board of the Ohio Chapter, AAOP. He fills the seat vacated by Paul Murka, who resigned earlier this year.

Naft graduated from The Ohio State University College of Engineering then went on to earn his certificate in prosthetics from Northwestern. Currently Naft is

President of Geauga Rehabilitation Engineering in Chardon, Ohio where he mixes his time between patient care and Research and Development.

Naft has served as a consultant to several O&P companies for prototype development, is active with ABC as an examiner and has volunteered at several Paralympic Games nationally.

"I am excited to be part of the Ohio Chapter Board and to be working with everyone for the benefit of our members," stated Naft. ■■



Jonathan Naft

Continuing Education Requirements for O, P and P Licensure: A Review

The O & P State Office of occasionally receives questions about the requirements for Continuing Education. We are including a review of information that has also been provided by the State Board of Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics.

The number of continuing education (CE) hours required for reporting for each discipline is as follows:

- ♦ For individual licensed as orthotist **or** prosthetist: 45 CE units
- ♦ For individual licensed as prosthetist *and* orthotist: 75 CE units
- ♦ For individual licensed as a pedorthist: 32 CE units

The statute also specifies that the

CE units must first be reported to the Board at the time of a licensee's fourth license renewal, and must have been accrued during the 3-year period prior to that renewal.

For example, if a licensee were first licensed in 2001, he or she will be required to report or "attest" to the appropriate CE accrual at the time of renewal for the 2005-2006 license period: units reported will have been accrued January 2002-December 2004.

If an individual were first licensed in 2002, 2003 would be his/her first license renewal and he/she will be required to report or attest to appropriate CE accrual at the time of your renewal for the 2006-2007 license period; units will have been accrued January 2003-December 2005.

According to Section 4779-9-01 of the Ohio Revised Code, it is the licensee's responsibility "to maintain and keep all records to serve as documentation for any audit pertaining to the completion of Orthotics/Prosthetics Continuing Education (OPPCE) requirements, including, but not limited to: certificates of completion, transcripts, letters of attendance, or attendance registers." Records must be maintained for a period of four years beyond the renewal date requiring attestation of OPPCE compliance for the holders of a license issued under Revised Code sections 4779.10, 4779.11, 4779.12, 4779.13, 4779.16, and 4779.17, and for a period of three years or three renewal periods for the holders of a temporary license issued under section 4779.18 of the Revised Code.

Legible copies shall be sent to the board only in response to an audit. ■■

The Ohio Chapter-AAOP 2003 Annual Spring Technical Meeting

*April 12, 2003
Hilton Hotel — Columbus*

Program

- 8:00 — 8:45 AM Registration / Continental Breakfast
- 8:45 — 9:00 AM Opening Remarks (all attendees)
- 9:00 — 10:00 AM The Effect of High Technology on Patients' Lives
Marmaduke Loke, CPO: Dynamic Bracing Solutions — Encinitas, California
- 10:00 — 10:30 AM Break/Exhibits
- 10:30 — 11:00 AM Technology Tools: Putting them into PRACTICE
Randy Schmitke: O&P Digital Technologies — Gainesville, Florida
- 11:00 — 12:00 PM Introduction to Hazardous Materials
Neil Wrobleski: Dangerous Goods Council — York, Pennsylvania
- 12:00 — 1:15 PM Lunch/Exhibits
- 1:15 — 1:30 PM American Academy Update
Wendy Beatty: American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists, Inc. — Alexandria, Virginia
- 1:30 — 2:30 PM Ultra G. Composites: Technical Overview and Lay-up Techniques
Wade Bader, CPO: Kinetic Research, Inc. — Tampa, Florida
- 2:30 — 3:30 PM Psychological Effects of Limb Loss
Russell Hawkes: OrPro LaForsche — Dayton, Ohio
- 3:30 — 3:45 PM Break
- 3:45 — 5:00 PM Manufacturing a TMA Orthosis
Don Weldon, C.Ped, BOC-O: Advanced Anatomical Design — Canfield, Ohio

Meeting Registration Form

(For additional names, please copy this form, or attach list)

**Please Enter Ohio Chapter
Member ID #
(from envelope label)**

Name: _____ Company: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____ E-mail: _____
 Current Certifications (include cert. #): ABC _____ C.Ped. _____ BOC _____ Other _____

Meeting Registration:	(Before 4/4/03)	(after 4/4/03 & at door)
Member, Ohio Chapter AAOP *	= \$135.00 _____	\$160.00 _____
Non-member	= \$195.00 _____	\$220.00 _____
Breakout Session ** AM Session # _____	= \$10.00 _____	(Pre-registrations only)
PM Session # _____	= \$10.00 _____	(Pre-registrations only)
Total Enclosed	= \$ _____	\$ _____

Registration includes: Admittance to sessions and exhibits, continental breakfast, lunch, breaks and Friday evening reception.

Make check payable to: **Ohio Chapter, AAOP**
and mail with registration form to:
*Ohio Chapter, AAOP
1161 Francisco Road
Columbus, Ohio 43220*

PCE's Applied for

Cancellation Policy: Full refunds, minus a 10% processing fee, will be provided up to 4/4/03. Sorry, no refunds after 4/4/03. **Cancellations must be in writing** to be eligible for refund.

- * If you are a member of the Ohio Chapter, your ID # will appear on the address portion of your envelope. If no number appears, you are not a current member. Please call 614/457-4312 for further information.
- ** Must register for full conference first to be eligible for attendance at breakout sessions. All attendees at breakout sessions must be pre-registered for Meeting. No walk-ins will be admitted to special breakout sessions.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

This year's Spring Technical Meeting offers new breakout sessions which provide expanded educational opportunities for attendees. Each session will be two-and-one-half hours and will be run twice, once in the morning (9:00 — 12:00 PM, including break), and once in the afternoon (1:30 — 4:45 PM, including break). A nominal additional charge will be applied for attendance at breakout sessions, and registration will have to be in advance of the meeting (sorry, no "walk-in" registrations available for breakouts).

Session 1: *HIPAA Compliance — What This Means to You as a Provider and How Management Software Plays an Important Role*

Terry Long and Valerie Vastola
Futura International — Clearwater, Florida

Workshop Agenda:

- HIPAA Compliance* — What it means to you as a provider and how management software plays a role
- HIPAA Terminology* — What it all means in layman's terms
- Futura's Management Software* — How and why this software was designed in compliance with Privacy Standards
- The Right Tools and Technology* — What unique state of the art tool Futura offers that can help you achieve compliance and streamline your practice:
 - Organizational Strategies for Your Billing Department
 - Appropriate Workload, Job Costing, Accountability Performance, and Productivity
 - Detailed Analysis Reporting
 - Digital Images and Automated Progress Notes with Voice Recognition
 - Appointment Scheduling, Palm Sync, and automated Recall System

Session 2: *Success With the Therapeutic Footwear Bill for O&P*

Ross Marty, C.Ped., BOC-O
ACOR Orthopaedic, Inc. — Cleveland, Ohio

- Objectives: At the end of the session, the attendee will:
- Be able to identify numerous conditions that interfere with successful shoe fitting for Diabetics. Examples include, neuropathy, peripheral vascular disease, hammertoes, bunions, edema, size discrepancies, etc.
 - Learn about the features of specialized shoes that are useful in addressing these problems.
 - Learn how to direct mold the inlays to create a conforming foot bed.
 - Learn how to be successful in working with the therapeutid footwear program.

Session 3: *Hands on the Next Generation*

Stuart Marquette, CO
DAW Industries — San Diego, CA

Keeping up with the rapid advancements in knee technology is both challenging and desirable for today's prosthetists. For the same reasons you no longer program your latest desktop computer, you do not have to program your Next Generation computer knee. It is, however, essential to be top-notch in understanding the biomechanical differences between Single Axis, 4-Bar and 5-Bar knees. This presentation will not only bring the "prosthetist" up to date on the latest techniques in using four-bar technologies, but provide hands-on knowledge and adjustment of the smoothest, most anatomical replicating 5-Bar knees. There are already five designs to fit most of your patient population. In addition, you will receive a solid background as well as hands-on fitting of the most advanced knee unit on the market. The Self-Learning Knee is so advanced that it learns, by experience, the parameters of your amputee's gait pattern. Reimbursements will be discussed. Come and get comfortable with the latest prosthetic technology.

Session 4: *Making Prosthetic Finishing Seem Like Magic!*

Ronnie Graves
Prosthetic Research Specialists — Bushnell, Florida

Prosthetics Research Specialists founder and president, Ronnie Graves, will help take the mystery out of finishing prostheses and make prosthetic finishing seem like magic! Ronnie will share some theories and procedures based on his unique experiences as a technician, practitioner, product developer, and amputee. This session will cover the back-to-back basics and philosophies involved with shaping foam covers and applying cosmetic finishes. This will include the often overlooked procedures involving proper preparation of foam covers for shaping, and even the reasoning for choosing one particular foam cover over the other available choices. The session will also cover the basics of outer surface protective coverings. Included in this portion of the session will be how to evaluate the needs of the amputee in relationship to the finished prosthesis, along with the rationale for choosing a removable or permanently applied outer surface protective covering, and the advantages of each. The age-old question of how to have access to components with permanent applications of finishes will also be answered. If you are involved with the finishing of prostheses, this is a session you will not want to miss!

Session 5: *State-of-the-art Trans-Tibial Socket Design*

Doug Taylor
Composite Inventions — Indianaopolis, Indiana
Janet Lazar
Engineered Silicone Products — Sparta, New Jersey

Engineered Silicone Products (ESP) and Composite Inventions, Inc. will present and in-depth program of trans-tibial suction suspension including the latest valve technology. Inclusive in the presentation will be the development of the AEGIS liner through a wealth of clinical data and observation of custom and injection molded liners and the development of advanced composite prosthetic socket design and fabrication.

HIPPA: What You Need to Know Now

The HIPAA Privacy Regulations: A Compliance Challenge

by Sheila Press, Esq.

The following article has been reprinted with permission from the January 2003 issue, *The O&P EDGE*. Look for Sheila Press' next article in an upcoming *O&P EDGE*.

This article is the first in a two-part series discussing the two most important compliance challenges facing the O&P field. This article includes basic information that you need to know in order to comply with the

HIPAA Privacy Regulations.

The date for compliance with these regulations is April 14, 2003. The subject of the second article will be file documentation requirements to comply with the OIG Guidelines for Compliance for DME, Orthotics and Prosthetics.

HIPAA is the acronym for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are responsible for implementing and monitoring various unrelated provisions of this law. At present, the part of HIPAA with which O&P businesses need to be concerned involves the use and disclosure of personal health information. Adopting uniform standards to address the security and privacy of personal health data is a major step by the government to address the public's growing concern regarding violations in the

confidentiality of personal health information. The privacy standards are structured in three sections: (1) restriction on the use and disclosure of certain health information; (2) establishment of individual rights regarding health information; and (3) establishment of administrative requirements to ensure confidentiality and appropriate use of health information.

Information protected by the HIPAA privacy regulations is called "personal health information" or "PHI." The privacy standards apply to any information, whether paper or electronic, that describes an individual's health status or other characteristics that identify or could be used to identify that individual. This information includes not only the patient's name and address and specific treatment information but also sex, ethnicity, and age. "Covered entities," or those to whom the HIPAA privacy regulations apply, include entities which provide direct treatment to patients, including O&P facilities; other "covered entities" include health plans and health care clearing-houses.

Forms Needed

You will need the following forms in order to be in compliance with the HIPAA privacy regulations by April 14, 2003:

1. Notice of Privacy Practices: You must give this document to all of your patients and have them sign and date an acknowledgment form which you will then maintain in that patient's file.
2. Consent: This form should be signed and dated by every patient. The form should then be maintained in that patient's file. It gives you permission to use the patient's personal health information for "treatment, payment or other healthcare operations." This consent form generally covers all of the purposes for which you might use the patient's PHI in your business. Once this form is signed, it can only be revoked in writing.
3. Authorization: A patient must sign and date this form for any uses or disclosures of PHI for any purpose other than treatment, billing, and healthcare operations. This would include the use of a photograph or video or the use of PHI for research purposes. Once this form is completed, signed, and dated, it should be main-

tained in the patient's file. Each authorization is effective for the specific purpose stated until it is revoked in writing.

4. **Business Associate Agreement:** You are also responsible to ensure that some of your business associates protect the privacy of your patient's individual health information with the same care as you provide. "Business associates" are defined as entities that perform a function or provide services involving PHI on behalf of covered entities; these include lawyers, accountants, billing and collection companies, and central fabrication

facilities. You should have all such persons or entities sign this agreement with you. It is a contract, and you should maintain these signed agreements in a separate file. The term "business associates" does not include others who are direct treatment providers, so that you do not need to have an agreement with physicians, physical therapists, or similar direct treatment providers.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Civil Rights is responsible for the enforcement of the HIPAA Privacy Rule, and there are both civil and criminal penalties for violations.

Your patients will be glad to know that, as part of the high quality of care that they receive from you, their personal privacy is being protected by your compliance with HIPAA. ■■

Sheila M. Press, Attorney, is president of Healthcare Compliance Solutions, a company providing consulting services, including HIPAA and OIG compliance, and customized compliance programs for O&P. She can be contacted at 480.767.9477; e-mail: spress@hccso

It's Time to Think Spring, Think Golf



If you haven't already marked your calendar for the Annual O&P Golf Outing, circle **Monday, June 9** as the date for the 2003 Outing. The event will be held at the popular Bent Tree Golf Club and is being organized once again by the Bill Neu (Hanger P & O, Mansfield). Participation for the past several years has grown both from the corporate sponsorship support, as well as the number of golfing enthusiasts.

Pick up sign-up forms at the registration desk at the Spring meeting, or contact Bill Neu at 419/522-0055, or the Ohio Office at 614/457-4312 ■■

Senate, From Page 1

education and instruction in the use of various assistive devices including braces, splints, ambulatory or locomotion devices, wheelchairs, prosthetics and orthotics..." However, this bill eliminates the need for a prescription from a referring physician. The bill's sponsor said forty-six other states have similar legislation

A previous bill received substantial opposition during the last legislative session and ultimately stalled. SB 35 was initially opposed by family physicians and chiropractors but passed after several amendments were agreed upon..

To review the bill, go to: www.legislature.state.oh.us/ Go to "Current Legislation" and type in "35" for bill number, and click on Senate. ■■



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THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS, INC.

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