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Ortho News This Week

CMS Alert



New Medicare Card: Will Your Claims Reject?

Protect your patients' identities by using the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) now. Starting January 1, 2020, you must use the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI). We will reject claims you submit with the Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN), with a few [exceptions](#), and reject all eligibility transactions.

Don't have an MBI?

Ask your patients for their card. If they did not get a new card, give them the Get Your New Medicare Card flyer in [English](#) or [Spanish](#). Use your Medicare Administrative Contractor's look up tool. [Sign up](#) for the Portal to use the tool. Check the remittance advice. We return the MBI on the remittance advice for every claim with a valid and active HICN.



CMS releases details of new AUC program



AAOE

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released new information about the mandatory Appropriate Use Criteria program for advanced imaging, set to begin on January 1, 2020. The program is required by law, having been passed by the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 and targets computed tomography (CT), positron emission tomography (PET), nuclear medicine, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Under this program, when an advanced imaging service is ordered, the ordering professional will be required to consult a qualified clinical decision support mechanism (CDSM). [READ MORE](#)

Remote patient monitoring: Medicare proposes two major expansions



Health Care Law Today

Last week, CMS proposed two significant changes to remote patient monitoring (RPM) services reimbursed under the Medicare program. The changes, part of the proposed 2020 Physician Fee Schedule, have been hotly anticipated by digital health providers hoping to see more clarity and flexibility for RPM services. [READ MORE](#)

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Fake DEA agents extortion scam



Medical Board of California

The Medical Board of California (Board) has learned that scam artists posing as U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents or Board staff are calling California physicians as part of an extortion scheme. The scammers identify themselves as DEA agents or Board staff calling about ongoing investigations regarding their license issued by the Medical Board of California (Board). The scammers tell victims their license may be suspended for illegal drug trafficking and the suspension means they will not be able to practice. The scammers may provide an "Agreement for the Bond and Protocols" that includes statements that licensees are not to share or disclose the investigation to any third party and agree to a bond fee payment of \$25,000.00. The scammers' phone number may show up as the Board's toll-free number (800) 633-2322. [READ MORE](#)

California auditor blasts Medi-Cal overseer for failing patients in 18 rural counties



The Sacramento Bee

In a report released Tuesday, California State Auditor Elaine Howle upbraided the state Department of Health Care Services for its failure to ensure Medi-Cal beneficiaries have adequate access and quality of care in 18 rural counties stretching from Inyo to the south to Tehama and Plumas in the north. [READ MORE](#)

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Introducing the ACS Geriatric Surgery Verification Program



American College of Surgeons

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) Geriatric Surgery Verification (GSV) Program presents 30 new surgical standards designed to systematically improve surgical care and outcomes for the aging adult population. The standards provide a framework for hospitals to take an interdisciplinary approach to continuously optimize surgical care for older adults. [READ MORE](#)
See the news standards [here](#).

Orthopedic practice opportunity



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Rare Head-To-Head Comparison of Two Bone Grafts

Two bone graft extenders differing in chemical composition were implanted contralaterally in 27 consecutive patients undergoing instrumented posterolateral lumbar fusion. It was hypothesized that differences in biomaterial composition may reveal differences in the rate at which new bone was formed. [Learn more](#)



Cerner Ambulatory Practice Management

Specialty Practice Management is a complete front-and back-office solution that offers a rapid return on your investment and improved satisfaction among your staff. Practices with 10 or fewer providers turn to this comprehensive solution to manage self-pay accounts and eliminate the common mistakes that prevent or delay insurance reimbursement. [Read more](#)

Study assesses opioid prescribing in orthopaedics by country



The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery

A study published in the July 17 issue of *The Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery* found that opioid prescribing habits in orthopaedics may vary significantly in different countries. Orthopaedic residents from academic centers in Haiti, the Netherlands, and the United States responded to questionnaires asking what they would prescribe for post-discharge analgesia. [READ MORE](#)

Orthopedic surgeon to appeal \$2M malpractice verdict involving overlapping surgeries



Becker's Spine Review

Brett Greenky, MD, plans to appeal a \$2 million malpractice verdict delivered on July 2 over an orthopedic surgery performed six years ago, [syracuse.com](#) reports. A jury unanimously found Dr. Greenky and his practice, Syracuse (N.Y.) Orthopedic Specialists, negligent for their handling of a hip replacement surgery on patient Dorothy Murphy, 63. [READ MORE](#)

ProcedureCard optimizes the surgical supply chain



ProcedureCard

It has been estimated that there is about \$5 billion of annual waste in high-value medical devices alone. The surgical preference card is one of the key links in the surgical supply chain. Streamlining and updating the cards is not a top priority at most facilities, but it should be. Getting the right tools at the right place and time has never been easier. ProcedureCard.com has created a cloud-based HIPAA compliant surgical preference card management system that fits easily into the supply chain. It gives the operating room team access to their preference cards 24/7/365. Easily update, create and share surgical preference cards on any connected device. [READ MORE](#)

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