

September 20, 2019



# COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

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## Ortho News This Week

### DWC announces new updated educational module for treating physicians — it's free



Division of Workers' Compensation

This week, the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) launched an updated free online education course for physicians treating patients in the California workers' compensation system. They have previously released a complimentary educational module for Qualified Medical Evaluators (QMEs). [READ MORE](#)

### Audits and the Modifier 25 for pain physicians



KZA

What is Modifier 25? Modifier 25 is appended to E/M code when a minor procedure is performed at the same visit. [Find out more.](#)

[Differential diagnosis, defined:](#) In medicine, a differential diagnosis is the distinguishing of a particular disease or condition from others that present similar clinical features.[1] Differential diagnostic procedures are used by physicians to diagnose the specific disease in a patient, or, at least, to eliminate any imminently life-threatening conditions. Often, each individual option of a possible disease is called a differential diagnosis (e.g. acute bronchitis could be a differential diagnosis in the evaluation of a cough, even if the final diagnosis is common cold). [READ MORE](#)

### Stem cell implant knee osteoarthritis



KZA

Question: Our surgeons are harvesting adipose tissue and creating an injectable implant that they are injecting in the knee for treatment of osteoarthritis. We want to verify that our use of an unlisted CPT code is correct. We have some payors who do reimburse for this service; others require the patient to be self-pay. Answer: Thanks for your question. You are correct in reporting an unlisted CPT code until the end of 2019. The AMA released new Category III codes on July 1, 2019 that will require the use of the new codes for tracking purposes as of January 1, 2020. [READ MORE](#)

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California Orthopaedic Associations

**SAVE THE DATE**



REGISTRATION OPENS  
JANUARY 1, 2020

**COA 2020 ANNUAL MEETING**  
QME COURSE & CBONES ANNUAL MEETING  
April 16-19, 2020  
Terranea Resort, Rancho Palos Verde, CA

**NIH to investigate minor cannabinoids and terpenes for potential pain-relieving properties**



NIH  
Despite a lack of robust evidence, cannabinoids — such as CBD — are often assumed to be safe and effective in managing pain and used for such purposes in real-world settings. Now, nine new research awards totaling approximately \$3 million will investigate the potential pain-relieving properties and mechanisms of actions of the diverse phytochemicals in cannabis, including both minor cannabinoids and terpenes. [READ MORE](#)

**Three ways to boost your practice's efficiency and profit**



Medical Economics  
Healthcare consumerism and the evolution to value-based care have changed the industry dramatically. For providers, the challenge is two-fold: They must focus on keeping their current patient base happy while also working to attract new patients to ensure profitability. [READ MORE](#)

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