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COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

January 14, 2022

TOP NEWS

2022 Annual Meeting — REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

[Click here to register!](#)

[View the Meeting Agenda here.](#)

[Make your Hotel Reservation.](#)

The event you've been waiting for is live and in person. We can't wait to share it with you.



California Orthopaedic Association 2022 Annual Meeting/QME Course CBones 2022 Annual Meeting

April 7—10, 2022

Hyatt Regency Indian
Wells Resort & Spa
Indian Wells, CA
(Palm Springs area)

We've waited two years to be back together. Look forward to special guest speakers and networking with colleagues at the meeting.

COA President: Russell Nord, M.D.
Co-Program Chairs: Erik Schnaser, M.D.
Orrin Franko, M.D.

Presidential Keynote Speaker: Joseph Zuckerman, M.D.

COA's Annual Meeting/QME Course will fulfill your CME requirements.

- 17.25 Category 1 CME hours
which includes 10 Radiation Safety CME hours
- 10 ABOS SAE hours
- 6 QME CME hours

Bring your family. The Hyatt has a terrific water park which you and your family will have complimentary access. Spring is a terrific time to be in the desert. Outdoor activities and appropriate spacing in the meeting arrangements will be in place to keep everyone safe.

LEARN NETWORK SHARE BEST PRACTICES



The Meeting Schedule includes the agenda and a listing of social activities.

Remember to make your hotel reservation. The hotel is expected to sell out.

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DWC Updates the OMFS for Physician and Non-Physician Services (treatment fee schedule) Effective January 1, 2022

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has updated the Official Medical Fee Schedule (OMFS) for Physician and Non-Physician Services to include the 2022 CMS Medicare updates. Unlike CMS, the DWC does not calculate the reimbursement amount for each CPT code based on your geographic location. COA provides this service.

To order an Excel spreadsheet of the updated Official Medical Fee schedule and the updated coding rules, [click here](#).

Complimentary for COA Members
\$250 for Non-Members

To pay your 2022 COA dues, so that your membership is current and you can receive complimentary access to the Fee Schedule, [click here](#).

Physicians Need to Know about Upcoming Musculoskeletal Guideline Changes for 2022

AAOS Now

The American Medical Association (AMA) provides Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) code and guideline changes to the CPT Manual each year. In the October issue of AAOS Now, members received a sneak preview of new and revised codes to the Musculoskeletal section for the 2022 CPT code set. This article will focus on the relevant guideline changes made to the Musculoskeletal System, which are quite extensive.

[READ MORE](#)

AB 1400 — Single-Payor Bill Passes the Assembly Health Committee

COA

As of January 1, 2022, the California State Legislature begins the second year of its two-year legislative session. As such, bills that were introduced in 2021 must move through the Legislative process in January in order to stay alive. AB 1400, the bill proposing a single payor system for California, is one of those bills.

So, due to these deadlines, members were pressured to support AB 1400 and allow it to move forward. The bill passed its first legislative committee this week – the Assembly Health Committee. The primary author of AB 1400 is Ash Kalra (D-San Jose). The principal coauthors of AB 1400 are Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), Isaac Bryan (D-Baldwin Hills), Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles), and Senators Lena A. Gonzalez (D-Long Beach), Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg), and Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco). The bill is also coauthored by Assemblymembers Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento), Adrin Nazarian (D-Van Nuys), Luz Rivas (D-Arleta), Mia Bonta (D-Alameda), and Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), and Senators Josh Becker (D-Peninsula), Dave Cortese (D-Silicon Valley), John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles), and Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont). Several members they reserved the right to vote "No" on the bill, but voted "Aye" in the Health Committee to allow the bill to move forward.

An analysis of the bill can be found [here](#).

Health care providers, including COA and the California Medical Association are opposed to AB 1400, although the California Nurses Association is in support.

The bill is very controversial and funding for universal health care remains a significant challenge for the bill, although a tax increase is being proposed to fund the plan. It is estimated to cost each household in California \$12,000 per year.

This is just the first step for the bill in the Legislative process. COA will keep you informed and alert you when there are opportunities to provide input.

Budget Proposal Positions CA To Be First State To Achieve Universal Health Care Access and Coverage

California Medical Association

Governor Gavin Newsom has released his initial proposal for the 2022-23 California state budget. The Administration remains committed to access to care for all Californians, dedicating more than 22% of both the General Fund and total budgets to health expenditures. Notably, the Governor has proposed a phased-in system to provide full scope Medi-Cal coverage to all income eligible Californians regardless of age or documentation status by January 1, 2024. The proposal also maintains full funding for the Proposition 56 (tobacco tax) supplemental payments, including a \$176 million General Fund backfill of the payment program due to the declining revenues from cigarette taxes.

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Biden-Harris Administration Requires Insurance Companies and Group Health Plans to Cover the Cost of At-Home COVID-19 Tests, Increasing Access to Free Tests

HHS

As part of its ongoing efforts across many channels to expand Americans' access to free testing, the Biden-Harris Administration is requiring insurance companies and group health plans to cover the cost of over-the-counter, at-home COVID-19 tests, so people with private health coverage can get them for free starting January 15th. The new coverage requirement means that most consumers with private health coverage can go online or to a pharmacy or store, buy a test, and either get it paid for up front by their health plan, or get reimbursed for the cost by submitting a claim to their plan. This requirement incentivizes insurers to cover these costs up front and ensures individuals do not need an order from their health care provider to access these tests for free.

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Surprise Billing and the No Surprises Act: Preparing for 2022

KarenZupko & Associates, Inc.

Healthcare attorney Michael Sacopulos presents a webinar designed to bring you up to speed on federal surprise billing regulations. These regulations took effect on January 1, 2022.

In this webinar Mike covers:

- The Patient/Provider dispute resolution process and external review procedure
- Qualified payment amounts
- How these new federal regulations will impact out-of-network providers
- We will move from factual background to practical advice

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Mayo, Kaiser Among Companies Investing \$110M Into 'Hospital-At-Home' Venture

Becker's Health IT

Medically Home, a "hospital-at-home" company, received \$110 million in a new funding round from investors including Baxter International, Cardinal Health, Global Medical Response, Mayo Clinic and Kaiser Permanente.

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Orthopedics Is No Longer the Highest-Paid Specialty: 19 Insights on Compensation, Net Worth & More

Becker's Spine Review

Orthopedic surgeons are no longer the highest-paid medical specialty in the U.S., with plastic surgeons on average taking home a larger salary each year, according to *Medscape's* "Physician Compensation Report 2021." Here are nineteen insights on orthopedic surgeon compensation, incentive bonuses, net worth and more, drawn from five recent reports.

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COA Report

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