



**DOES YOUR EHR'S E/M SOLUTION  
FEEL MORE LIKE A PROBLEM?**



# COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

October 1, 2021



**How Clinical Collaboration Improves Efficiency & Care**  
Speed Workflows, Ease Scheduling & Satisfy Patients

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## COA Leaders Travel to DC Meet with Members of Congress

During one of the busiest weeks in Congress, COA leaders participated in the AAOS National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference (NOLC) which brought orthopaedic surgeons from across the nation to DC to meet with our national Representatives.

### We urged Members of Congress to:

- Sign a letter to House leaders Nancy Pelosi and Kevin McCarthy, to avert the Medicare Physician Reimbursement cuts of nearly 10% scheduled to be implemented by CMS on 1/1/22.
- Co-sponsor HR 3173 — a bill introduced by Congressman Ami Bera (D-CA) to help protect patients from unnecessary delays in care by streamlining and standardizing the Medicare Advantage prior authorization process. One aspect of the bill would establish an on-line real-time authorization approval process.
- Co-sponsor HR 869 — a bill to provide \$25 billion for medical research.

### COA leaders who participated:

- Russ Nord, M.D., COA President
- Tom Donaldson, M.D.- Inland Empire District
- Elspeth Kinnucan, M.D. - Sacramento Valley District
- Lindsey Urband, M.D. – San Diego District
- Ray Raven, M.D. – Los Angeles District
- Charles Preston, M.D. – Northern California District
- Michael Purnell, M.D. – Sequoia District
- Francois Lalonde, M.D. – Orange District
- Eric Ferkel, M.D.
- Alexandra Page, M.D.

### At the NOLC meeting:

- Congressman Ami Bera, M.D. representing the Sacramento area was awarded one of the AAOS Congressional Bipartisanship Awards for consistently working in a bipartisan manner to positively advance policy related to musculoskeletal care. COA nominated Dr. Bera for the award.
- COA Executive Director, Diane Przepiorski was awarded the Executive Director of the Year Award.



Dr. Donaldson on Capitol Hill



Dr. Lalonde (left) and Dr. Ferkel (right) meeting with Congressman Lou Correa (D-Orange)

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## Orthopaedic Pioneer Freddie H. Fu, MD, DSc(Hon), DPs(Hon) Dies at Age 70

Healio

Freddie H. Fu, MD, DSc(Hon), DPs(Hon), chair of the department of orthopaedic surgery and head team physician of the department of athletics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, died on Sept. 24.

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## HHS Announces 60-Day Grace Period for Provider Relief Fund Reporting

California Medical Association

Physicians who received Provider Relief Fund (PRF) payments between April 10 and June 30, 2020, in excess of \$10,000 will now have an extra 60-days to complete the post-payment reporting process. Physician practices that received \$10,000 or less in payments during the April 10-June 30, 2020 timeframe do not have to report on their use of these relief funds.

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## PRODUCT SHOWCASE



### Orthopedic Surgeon for busy practice

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Will need to work in multiple modern clinics in Los Angeles & Orange Counties & Inland Empire.

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## FDA Ends Enforcement Discretion on Biologics and Regenerative Products

AAOS

The FDA has formally ended the "enforcement discretion" of its comprehensive policy framework on biologics and regenerative medicine products. The four-year grace period is complete, and only vendors who can scientifically demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of their orthopaedic products will be able to come into regulatory compliance and market and sell legally and ethically. To date, many vendors have focused on commercial operations, rather than high-quality clinical research.

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## African American Patients More Likely to Undergo Inpatient TKA

AAOS

A study involving nearly 55,000 patients undergoing total knee arthroplasty (TKA) found that African American patients were more likely to undergo the procedure in an inpatient setting, whereas Caucasian and Asian patients were more likely to undergo outpatient TKA. The trends were primarily driven by patients' comorbidity burden, not race alone.

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## Mandatory Moratorium on Cancellations and Non-Renewals of Policies of Residential Property Insurance After the Declaration of a State of Emergency

California Insurance Commissioner

As enacted by Senate Bill 824 (Lara, Chapter 616, Statutes of 2018) Insurance Code section 675.1, subdivision (b)(1) provides: "An insurer shall not cancel or refuse to renew a policy of residential property insurance for a property located in any ZIP Code within or adjacent to the fire perimeter, for one year after the declaration of a state of emergency as defined in Section 8558 of the Government Code, based solely on the fact that the insured structure is located in an area in which a wildfire has occurred. This prohibition applies to all policies of residential property insurance in effect at the time of the declared emergency." (Emphasis added.)

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