



# COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

November 13, 2020

## TOP NEWS

### Workers' Compensation Alert

California Orthopaedic Association

#### Good News.

The Division of Workers' Compensation has released an updated version of proposed changes to the Medical-Legal Fee Schedule. The Division heard the concerns of physicians and moved back more to implementing the agreement reached by stakeholders (including COA) which is what COA had urged the Division to do.

Highlights of the revised proposed Medical-Legal Fee Schedule

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### A Message from the AAOS President

AAOS

Last week, I urged all of you to vote, and it appears that the entire country listened! Nearly two-thirds of those who were eligible to do so voted. This exceeds the modern-day record of 63.8% set in 1960 and may eventually surpass the record of 65.7% that was established in 1908. While the results of 16 races have yet to be called, the Political Action Committee of the AAOS (OrthoPAC) has been busy tabulating the pro-physician candidates and races it supported in the 2020 election cycle. One of our most prominent advocates in the House of Representatives, Roger Marshall, MD (R-KS), will now be the nation's newest physician senator, bringing the total number of physician senators to four. The others are Senator Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA), a gastroenterologist; Senator Rand Paul, MD (R-KY), an ophthalmologist; and our colleague and AAOS Fellow, Senator John Barrasso, MD, FAAOS (R-WY). They join 12 other physicians in the House of Representatives, including Ami Bera, MD (D-CA), an internist and co-sponsor of H.R. 8702; Raul Ruiz, MD (D-CA), an ER physician and lead sponsor of the surprise billing legislation we support; and Kim Schrier, MD (D-WA), a pediatrician. This is a historic number of physicians in Congress and will enable us to have a more effective voice for our patients and profession.

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## In Case You Missed It!

5 Things We Worked on In Sacramento  
Russell Nord, M.D., COA's 2nd Vice President  
Kim Stone, Esq., COA Lobbyist

If you missed the COA webinar last night, don't worry! You can still watch it and catch up on what COA has been working on in Sacramento for our members. Link to video:  
<https://youtu.be/l1BBhXpxRjQ>



## PRACTICE GUIDANCE

### COVID-19 Vaccine More Than 90% Effective, Pfizer Says

Healio  
A vaccine candidate developed by Pfizer and BioNTech was more than 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 and showed no serious safety concerns, according to an interim analysis of phase 3 clinical trial results released by the companies. Pfizer and BioNTech said they plan to submit the mRNA-based vaccine candidate, now called BNT162b2, to the FDA for an emergency use authorization after a required safety milestone is met, likely in the third week of November.

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## PRODUCT SHOWCASE



### Weight Loss and Better Outcomes

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## Five Important Questions About Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine

KHN  
Pfizer's announcement on Monday that its COVID-19 shot appears to keep nine in 10 people from getting the disease sent its stock price rocketing. Many news reports described the vaccine as if it were our deliverance from the pandemic, even

though few details were released.

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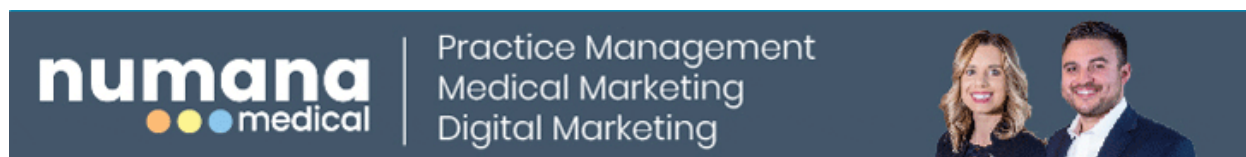


## Time to Discuss Potentially Unpleasant Side Effects of COVID Shots? Scientists Say Yes.

KHN

Drugmaker Pfizer is expected to seek federal permission to release its COVID-19 vaccine by the end of November, a move that holds promise for quelling the pandemic, but also sets up a tight time frame for making sure consumers understand what it will mean to actually get the shots. This vaccine, and likely most others, will require two doses to work, injections that must be given weeks apart, company protocols show.

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## CMS Makes Permanent Some Telehealth Changes for Home Health Providers

ANCOR

As announced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: "The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule [CMS-1730-F] that finalizes routine updates to the home health payment rates for calendar year (CY) 2021, in accordance with existing statutory and regulatory requirements. This rule also finalizes the regulatory changes related to the use of telecommunications technology in providing care under the Medicare home health benefit."

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## Anthem PPO added to specialty medication policy

California Medical Association

Anthem Blue Cross recently notified physicians that effective December 1, 2020, it will expand its specialty medication policy to also apply to its commercial PPO and EPO plans. The new PPO policy, effective for dates of service on or after December 1, 2020, mirrors policy previously implemented for Anthem's commercial HMO and Medi-Cal managed care plans and will require that certain specialty pharmacy medications administered in the office or outpatient hospital setting be obtained exclusively through CVS Specialty pharmacy.

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# Updated Prospective Bundled Payment Program

Effective 01/01/2021

## Statewide rate increases for ASCs & Surgeons

- **Restructured bundle offerings** focused on utilization in ASC, in particular high acuity
- **Added reimbursement** for bilateral and multiple bundles, as well as coding pairs
- Several **new bundles and codes** to promote site-of-service optimization of complex cases to higher quality ASC settings
- **Restructured trauma/fracture-related bundles** to drive incremental utilization & match implant usage

Global 1 | surgery. better.™

COA has become aware that Global 1 has successfully negotiated improvements in their Blue Shield Bundled Payment Program which increases reimbursement for orthopaedic procedures and addresses other concerns expressed by COA and its members. Attached is a summary from Global 1 providing more specific details of the changes to their Blue Shield Bundled Payment Program.

COA appreciates the collaboration with Global 1 and continues to be open to hearing from you about issues that may affect your bundled payment arrangements



## COA Report

Connect with COA



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