



# COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

November 6, 2020

## TOP NEWS

### 5 Things We Worked On in Sacramento

Attend this COA webinar to find out what happened

SB 977 – Attorney General Approval of Medical Mergers  
SB 275 – Stockpiling of PPE Supplies  
AB 890 – Nurse Practitioners Scope of Practice  
Proposed Changes to the Medical-Legal Fee Schedule  
New Employer Requirements

**Thursday, November 12 – 6:30 pm**

Complimentary

**The webinar will feature:**

Russell Nord, M.D. – COA's 2nd VP/Chair – Legislative Committee  
Kim Stone, Esq., Stone Advocacy – COA's Lobbyist

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## AAOS Legislative Alert: Last Chance to Prevent Medicare Cuts

AAOS

Finalized policies from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are scheduled to cut Medicare payments to orthopaedics by approximately 5% and an additional 5% for hip and knee procedures. These anticipated changes will go into effect January 1, 2021 and are likely to destabilize health system financing and drastically diminish the opportunity for hospital and physician practices to recover financially from COVID. Fortunately, a high-impact piece of legislation has been introduced by Reps. Ami Bera, MD (D-CA-07), and Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN-08), to provide a “relief payment” alleviating any Medicare reimbursement differences between 2020 and 2021/22. [H.R. 8702, the Holding Providers Harmless From Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020](#), would protect specialty healthcare professionals who are caring for our nation's vulnerable Medicare population and preserve vital access to musculoskeletal services. The AAOS is asking members to reach out to their representatives and encourage them to cosponsor H.R. 8702. [Take action by](#)

[contacting your representative today.](#)



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## PRACTICE GUIDANCE

### Updated Information on Patients' Access to Physician Notes under the CURES Act.

Implementation is delayed until April 5, 2021.

For other frequently asked questions regarding patients' access to information under the CURES Act, [read a notice](#) from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology posted on Monday, November 2, 2020.



## PRODUCT SHOWCASE



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## California Clarifies Electronic Signature Law Effective Jan. 1, 2021

Hooper Lundy & Bookman PC

On September 18, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 2520 into law. Effective January 1, 2021, AB 2520 clarifies that health care providers may honor releases of information that patients sign electronically. Below, we highlight the implications of this important clarification to California law, particularly for digital health providers seeking to create streamlined user experiences.

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# California Workers Comp Regulation Changes

Leavitt Insurance Services of Los Angeles

On September 17, 2020, Governor Newsom signed two bills into law. Both may affect your daily operations. SB 1159 and AB 685 are both part of his worker protection package. Below are some bullet points. Please familiarize yourself with these new regulations.

## What you should know:

- Employers must notify insurance carriers of any positive COVID-19 tests
- Positive tests that have occurred since July 6, 2020 must be reported by October 30, 2020
- Future positive tests must be reported within 3 days of receiving results
- These rules apply to any employee that tests positive.
- Fines can be as much as \$10,000.

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## COA Report

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