



COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

December 11, 2020

MEDICARE NEWS – 2021

CMS Medicare Changes Encourage Hospitals to Reach Out to Orthopaedic Surgeons

Becker's ASC

As of January 1, 2021, CMS is phasing out the Inpatient Only List of Procedures that can currently only be performed in an in-patient hospital setting. This will allow surgeons and their patients to decide the appropriate surgical setting. COA has long supported this change.

Hospitals, fearing that they will lose orthopaedic procedures to an out-patient setting, are reaching out to orthopaedic surgeons in their community to encourage them to continue to perform their surgeries at their hospital. It's already happening in New York.

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COA encourages our member to also have these conversations with their hospitals to seek more practice efficiencies for procedures that will still need to be performed in a hospital setting.

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In Becerra, an HHS Nominee With Political Skill But No Front-Line Health Experience

Kaiser Health News

Xavier Becerra, President-elect Joe Biden's choice to head the Department of Health and Human Services, is set to be a pandemic-era secretary with no public health experience. Whether that matters depends on whom you ask. Becerra built his career in the U.S. House of Representatives before becoming California's attorney general, and some wonder whether his political and legal skills would be the right fit to steer HHS through a health catastrophe that's killing thousands of Americans every day. Although he would bring years of health politics and policy work to the role, none of it comes from front-line experience as an executive or administrator running public health programs, managing patient care or controlling the spread of disease.

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2020 In Review: State Telehealth Policy Legislative Roundup

Center for Connected Health Policy

2020 has been an unprecedented year for telehealth. Spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth has become a common form of healthcare delivery over the past year. In no small part, expanded reimbursement and professional practice policies has enabled this transformation. Among 36 states, 104 legislative bills passed in the 2019 legislative session. This was relatively consistent with 2019, when 113 bills were enacted. However, the topics that were addressed were significantly different in 2020.

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Special Fraud Alert: Speaker Programs

Department of Health and Human Services Offices of Inspector General

This Special Fraud Alert highlights the fraud and abuse risks associated with the offer, payment, solicitation, or receipt of remuneration relating to speaker programs by pharmaceutical and medical device companies. For purposes of this Special Fraud Alert, speaker programs are generally defined as company-sponsored events at which a physician or other health care professional (collectively, "HCP") makes a speech or presentation to other HCPs about a drug or device product or a disease state on behalf of the company.

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MemorialCare Health System CFO Outlines AI Partnership, Price Transparency Efforts

HealthLeaders

As provider organizations grapple with the financial burden related to the COVID-19 pandemic, some health systems are investing in technology solutions for tangible returns. Karen Testman, RN, is CFO at MemorialCare Health System, a nonprofit four-hospital system based in Fountain Valley, California. Testman, a member of the HealthLeaders CFO Exchange, says MemorialCare is expecting a five-to-one return on its investment with Olive, a health technology firm based in Columbus, Ohio, for an on-site, artificial intelligence (AI) command center.

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New AUC on Rotator Cuff Builds on Clinical Practice Guideline

AAOS

At its September meeting, the AAOS Board of Directors approved the release of a new set of Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) on Rotator Cuff Pathology (RCP). As with other AAOS AUCs, this resource provides clinicians with an algorithm-style tool for choosing management pathways based on the patient's presenting indications as entered by the physician. The treatment scenarios provided by an AUC arise from the recommendations in a Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG), in this case the completely revised CPG on Rotator Cuff Injury (RCI) approved by the Board in March 2019.

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[Dennis Hall](#), Director of Publishing, MultiView, 469-420-2656 | [Download media kit](#)
[Brie Ragland](#), Content Editor, MultiView, 469-420-2604 | [Contribute news](#)

California Orthopaedic Association
1246 P Street | Sacramento, CA 95814
916-454-9884 | [Contact Us](#) | www.coa.org

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