



COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

December 18, 2020

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout in California is Underway.

COA
Many of you have likely heard Governor's Gavin Newsom's plan to roll out the first wave of the COVID-19 vaccinations in California to front line health care workers. [Here is a Los Angeles Times article discussing the Governor's rollout plan.](#)

The state is relying on hospitals to distribute these first vaccinations. Vaccinations have arrived at hospitals throughout California this week.

Several COA members have asked when the COVID-19 vaccinations will be made available to surgeons and their staff in private practice.

First of all, we would recommend that you coordinate with the hospital in which you have hospital privileges to get their timeline for when they are making the vaccinations available to their surgeons.

For those COA members who do not have hospital privileges with an acute care hospital, COA has sent a letter to the Governor's COVID Task Force reminding them that you and your staff should also be given a priority in getting the vaccinations. The Governor routinely talks about teachers, grocery workers, farm workers being included in the second wave, but we have heard no mention of other health care providers.

The state plans are being developed on a day-to-day basis as vaccinations become available. We will provide you with updated information as it becomes available.

Lesley Anderson, M.D.
President

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Medical Board of California — 2021 Prescription Forms

The Medical Board of California

In the [latest edition of Medical Board Chat](#), host Carlos Villatoro talks with the Board's Chief of Legislative and Public Affairs, Aaron Bone, about the January 1, 2021, changes to prescription forms.

[Medical Board of California Fall 2020 Newsletter](#)

Physician Assistant Opportunity in Northern California

Sah Orthopaedic Associates

Busy and well-recognized Orthopaedic Surgery practice with specialization in hip and knee replacement surgery in the San Francisco Bay Area is looking for a full-time Certified Physician Assistant PA-C to join our care team. This position requires someone who has a strong commitment to providing outstanding patient care, is a team player, can work in the OR, is comfortable with EMR, and has excellent interpersonal skills.

Responsibilities include direct patient care and documentation in the pre- and post-operative setting, communication and teamwork with other staff members, and serving as a first-assistant in the OR. Group has extensive experience with 3 PAs currently, and looking to add an enthusiastic PA who desires to work with a team.

Qualifications: Communication skills with patients/team, compassion for patients, dexterity for assisting in OR, knowledge/experience with medical procedures, desire to learn, athletic background a plus.

For further information regarding our practice, please see our website: www.SahOrtho.com
No phone calls please. Please email your Curriculum Vitae to laurie@sahortho.com

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MICRA Will Be Tested Again in 2022

AAOS

MICRA is again being challenged. A new ballot initiative, authored by a malpractice plaintiff attorney once again, was originally planned for the 2020 General Election ballot. Although enough signatures were collected to place the initiative on the 2020 ballot, its backers ultimately pulled the question from the ballot due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in apparent

recognition that any proposal adversely impacting physicians during the pandemic would have a harder time passing. The initiative is scheduled to be on the ballot for the General Election in 2022.

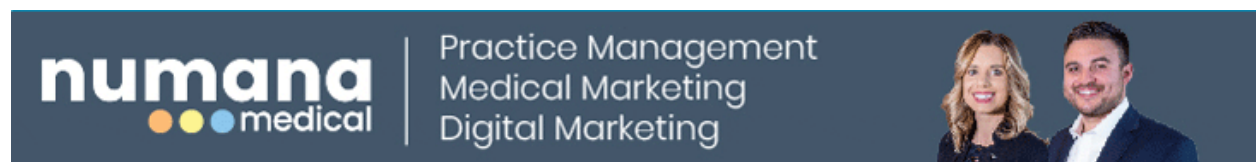
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HIPAA Right of Access Initiative: 2020 Year in Review

Foley & Lardner LLP

In 2020, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) kept the promise it made the prior year to "vigorously enforce" the rights of patients to access and exercise control over their medical records. OCR has settled ten "right of access" investigations since September 2020 alone. The settlements extended across a wide range of covered entities, from large health care systems to smaller focused mental health service providers, and the settlement amounts varied widely, ranging from \$3,500 to \$160,000.

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HHS Proposes HIPAA Changes: 7 Things To Know

Becker's Hospital Review

HHS' Office for Civil Rights released proposed modifications to the HIPAA Privacy Rule Dec. 10. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is part of HHS' Regulatory Sprint to Coordinated Care initiative, which analyzes federal regulations that interfere with healthcare providers and health plans' efforts to better coordinate care for patients. The proposed changes to the HIPAA Privacy Rule include strengthening individuals' access to their own health information, facilitating greater family and caregiver involvement in the care for individuals and access to their PHI during emergencies or health crises and reducing administrative burdens on HIPAA-covered providers and health plans. Here are seven things to know.

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Hoag CEO on Providence St. Joseph Lawsuit: 'We Can Move a Lot Faster'

HealthLeaders

Last month, Erik Wexler, president and CEO of Providence Southern California, spoke with *HealthLeaders* about the organization's perspective regarding Hoag's lawsuit against Providence. Following publication of that interview, Robert Braithwaite, the president and CEO of Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian, also spoke with *HealthLeaders* about their side of the story.

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CCHP Factsheet on CMS Finalized CY 2021 Physician Fee Schedule Now Available

CCHP

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized their CY 2021 revisions to the Physicians Fee Schedule (PFS). The PFS addresses changes CMS made administratively in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), and details how these changes will be dealt with on a provisional basis until the end of the PHE, and in some cases whether or not the policy will become permanent. There are some temporary policy changes that occurred during

the PHE, such as limitations around the eligible provider types and patient location, that require congressional action to be extended beyond the PHE, and are thus not addressed in CMS' rule.

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