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COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

December 24, 2021



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

View Webinar

As 2021 comes to a close, COA would like to wish its members, partners and other industry professionals a safe and happy holiday season. As we reflect on the past year for the industry, we would like to provide the readers of the *COA Report* a look at the most accessed articles from the year. Our regular publication will resume Friday, Jan. 7.



18 Highest-Paid CEOs in Healthcare

Becker's Hospital Review

From April 23: The CEOs of Centene, HCA Healthcare and AbbVie are among the highest-paid chief executives of the largest U.S. companies, according to Equilar. For its ranking of the 100 highest-paid CEOs in 2020, Equilar examined proxy statements filed by companies before March 31. The study showed that median CEO compensation was \$15.5 million in 2020, down 1.6 percent from \$15.7 million in its 2019 study. In line with the decline in median total compensation, 32 CEOs of the largest U.S. companies saw a smaller pay package in 2020 than a year earlier. Twenty-three CEOs saw compensation dip in 2019, according to the report. Here are the 18 healthcare CEOs that made the highest paid list, in order of total compensation in 2020.

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Appropriate Patients
for Topical Therapy:
Important
Considerations

CHARLES ARGOFF, MD

Professor, Neurology
Albany Medical College
Director, Comprehensive Pain Center



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Ask the Expert: Are Changes Coming Soon To Telehealth Payment Parity?

California Medical Association

From June 25: With the State of California having recently lifted most of its COVID-19 restrictions, the California Medical Association (CMA) has begun to receive inquiries from physician practices asking if there are changes to telehealth payment parity coming soon, including whether the requirement to reimburse providers at in-office rates for telehealth services, including telephonic visits, may be ending.

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Sutter Health Plans Operational Changes as 'Unsustainable' Finances Loom

Sacramento Business Journal

From March 5: As Sutter Health posted a loss from operations in the hundreds of millions for the second year in a row, the health system is launching a "sweeping review" of its operations, according to a new financial report. Sacramento-based Sutter Health is the second-largest private employer in the Sacramento area, with almost 19,000 employees in the region, according to Business Journal research. The not-for-profit health system operates 24 hospitals, mostly in Northern California.

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JEFFREY GUDIN, MD

*Professor of Medicine
Department of Anesthesiology,
Perioperative Medicine and
Pain Management*

University of Miami Miller
School of Medicine

ACP/AAFP Clinical Guideline Updates

The American College of Physicians (ACP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) recently revised their clinical Guidelines for Pain to recommend topical NSAIDs as first line therapy for the treatment of non-low back pain from musculoskeletal injuries in adults. Listen to Dr. Gudín share his insights for clinicians.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Dignity Health and Anthem Fail To Reach New Agreement

CMA Newswire

From Aug. 13: After months of negotiations, Dignity Health California and Anthem Blue Cross failed to reach a new contract agreement. As a result, the contract between Dignity Health and Anthem has terminated. [READ MORE](#) details about the impact and timeline of the termination.

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New Data on Coronavirus Vaccine Effectiveness May Be 'A Wakeup Call'

Axios

From Aug. 13: A new preprint study that raises concerns about the mRNA vaccines' effectiveness against Delta — particularly Pfizer's — has already grabbed the attention of top Biden administration officials.

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- [Percutaneous Forefoot Decompression in a Foot Compartment Syndrome Model](#)

[AIG \(Incorrectly\) Cuts Med-Legal Bill by 88%](#)

DaisyBill

From Sept. 10: AIG improperly reduced a California Medical-Legal bill by 88%, providing a dramatic example of how California law incentivizes payers to incorrectly reimburse physicians who treat injured workers. Rather than properly reimbursing a Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME) for a supplemental report, AIG seemingly used a profits-first calculus that takes into account the utter lack of consequences payers face when breaking the rules. Below, we document AIG's victimization of a physician evaluator who did exactly what was requested of them.

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[Californians Must Wear Masks at Work Unless Everyone Is Vaccinated](#)

San Francisco Chronicle

From June 4: If anyone in a workplace is unvaccinated, all colleagues must wear masks when in the same room, according to a new state workplace standard passed Thursday. The standards board for Cal/OSHA said it considers the measure temporary and will act quickly to craft a replacement.

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[Clinical Faceoff: What is the Role of Acromioplasty in the Treatment of Rotator Cuff Disease?](#)

Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research

From Jan. 22: The debate over the cause of rotator cuff disease and its treatment has been around since the late 19th century, with the disagreement centering around whether the pathology seen in rotator cuff tears is caused by inherent degeneration of the tendons, contact of the tendons with some structures, or both. Charles S. Neer II MD was the first to coin the term "impingement lesions," which he described as tears of the rotator cuff caused by contact of the rotator cuff with the anterior acromion and the coracoacromial ligament. For symptomatic rotator cuff disease, he recommended a partial anterior acromioplasty with release of the coracoacromial ligament. These procedures subsequently became the go-to treatment for rotator cuff disease. However, there has been continued controversy regarding the role of the acromion and coracoacromial ligament in rotator cuff disease.

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[Rethinking the Kitchen Sink Strategy](#)

Boxer+Gerson

From March 12: Will the newly unveiled amended Medical-Legal Fee Schedule regulations result in a change in California workers' comp culture? The proposed regs, likely to be officially adopted for use in April 2021, contain measures that have the potential to change how cases are often handled

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Resurgence of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in a Highly Vaccinated Health System Workforce

The New England Journal of Medicine

From Sept. 10: In December 2020, the University of California San Diego Health (UCSDH) workforce experienced a dramatic increase in severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infections. Vaccination with mRNA vaccines began in mid-December 2020; by March, 76% of the workforce had been fully vaccinated, and by July, the percentage had risen to 87%.

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COA Report

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