



COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

February 12, 2021

TOP NEWS

Registration is Open!

It's time to register for COA/CBones 2021 Annual Meeting.



The COA/CBones will hold their Annual Meetings as a virtual meeting with live presentations to allow interaction with attendees. The virtual meeting will be held May 20-23, 2021 and will also be available on-demand for you to access on your own timeline.

The meeting will be accredited. Attendees will earn:

- 15 Category 1 CME hours - 10 hours of which will also qualify for your radiology/fluoroscopy CME requirements
- 10 SAE CME hours
- 6 QME CME hours

Highlights of the meeting include:

- Presidential/Keynote Speaker: Peter Stern, M.D.

Clinical Symposiums

- Common Pitfalls – Total Joints -Pre Intra and Post-Op -Moderator: Derek Amanatullah, M.D.
- Common Pitfalls – Hand Treatments -Pre Intra and Post-Op -Moderator: Amy Ladd, M.D.
- Common Pitfalls – Spine Treatment – Pre Intra and Post-Op -Moderator: Brian Su, M.D.
- Problems of the Knee -Today's Problems -Tomorrow Solutions -Moderator: Bert Mandelbaum, M.D.

- Management of Complex Rotator Cuff Repair – Moderator: James Kelly, M.D.
- Tools to Stay on Top of Orthopaedic Knowledge – Moderator: Jeffrey Korchek, M.D.
- Implant Technology Update
- Life Hacks to Improve Practice

Workers' Compensation

- The new Medical-Legal Fee Schedule – Major changes affecting your reimbursement/ML codes/billing rules. DWC is on schedule to implement the new fee schedule April 1, 2021.
- Do Impairments Overlap?
- Important case law that QMEs/AMEs must understand when evaluating injured workers

Practice Management

- Experience with Bundled Payments
- Changes to the Stark Law – affect physician employment arrangements and ownership of ancillary services.
- Generational differences in orthopaedic practices
- Unconscious Bias
- Coding and Billing Workshop – Learn about new payor policies, how to perfect your billings, and 2021 coding changes.

Meeting Agenda

The meeting will be packed with practical information to help you successfully run your practice.

Surgeons, orthopaedic practice managers, and coding staff are encouraged to attend.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Orthopaedic Surgeons in San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange and San Diego
DWC Needs Your Help

Injured workers disputing either the diagnosis or the treatment prescribed by their Medical Provider Network (MPN) treating physician are allowed 2 opportunities to change and select a new treating physician within their MPN. Once they have exhausted those choices but their dispute remains, they have the ability to request that the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) assign a MPN Independent Medical Review (IMR) to review the case and resolve their ongoing dispute with their MPN physicians. Treatment decisions are based on the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS), the same treatment guidelines used to decide treatment issues for other injured workers.

DWC only has 10 days to appoint a MPN IMR, so it is important for them to have a list of orthopaedic surgeons willing to do these evaluations. The MPN IMR must perform an in-person evaluation and write a report. The evaluation is paid under the Official Medical Fee Schedule – treatment fee schedule. You would bill the appropriate level of E&M code, prolonged service code for face-to-face and/or non-face-to-face time of record review, and WC007 – report fee of WC007 - \$170.49. The defense is required to pay the costs of these evaluations. You would only be asked to perform musculoskeletal evaluations.

In the past, DWC had only occasionally received these requests, however, there has been an increase in these requests in San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, and San Diego counties.

If you would like to participate in the evaluations to help injured workers move on and receive the medically necessary medical treatment, please send an email to DWC - John Cortes jcortes@dir.ca.gov or Ray Meister, M.D. rmeister@dir.ca.gov letting them know of your interest. Please copy COA.

MPN IMRs are authorized by Labor Code sections [4616.3](#), [4616.4](#) and California Code of Regulations, title 8 (8 C.C.R.) sections [9768.1](#) - [9768.17](#)

[Download a template for an MPN IMR report.](#) Evaluators can use the template or create a narrative report addressing all of the required elements.

PRODUCT SHOWCASE



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Orthopaedic Surgeon in the Redondo Beach area retiring

COA

Has the following equipment for sale:

1. Stryker wall mounted cast saw and vacuum- current model, hardly used \$1900 new, asking \$950
2. Radlink CR digital x-ray system, with 4 cassettes- 5 years old in good condition, asking \$2500
3. Wallmounts for computer, screen, keyboard- 4 available, like new, asking \$250 each
4. X-ray view boxes- 6 available, \$25 each
5. Lenovo M series ThinkCentre Intel core i5 Windows 7 computers with 23" monitors- 4 available at \$200 ea- require new hard drives.

If interested, call **310-372-4646**.

DWC Issues Notice of Emergency Regulation to Re-Adopt Measures to Assist Medical-Legal Evaluations During COVID-19

Department of Industrial Relations

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has issued a Notice of Emergency Regulation Re-Adoption to extend current measures that allow workers' compensation claims to move forward during COVID-19 restrictions. Emergency regulations § 46.2 and § 36.7 are set to expire on March 12, 2021. This re-adoption would extend the emergency regulations for up to an additional 210 days in accordance with Executive Orders N-40-20 and N-66-20. After this re-adoption, DWC can seek one final re-adoption.

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50-State Survey of Telehealth Commercial Insurance Laws

Foley & Lardner LLP

Telemedicine and digital health technology continues to gain acceptance among patients and health care professionals alike, and more organizations are implementing and expanding robust virtual care programs to supplement their traditional in-person offerings. Our first national telemedicine and digital health survey was published seven years ago, with this report being our team's fourth publicly available survey on telemedicine. Our prior reports found one of the most significant barriers to adoption was limited or unclear reimbursement for telehealth and digital health services.

[READ MORE](#)

Zimmer Biomet To Combine Spine, Dental Businesses To Form Company Called NewCo

Healio

Zimmer Biomet Holdings Inc. has announced its intent to spin off its spine and dental businesses to form a new company to "optimize resource allocation and drive toward market leadership," according to a press release. The company, NewCo, will be independent and publicly traded, and will enhance focus on Zimmer Biomet's high-growth and high-priority areas, which include knee, hip, sports medicine, extremities and trauma, and craniomaxillofacial and thoracic.

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Medicare RPM CY 2021 PFS Final Rule Correction

Center for Connected Health Policy

In mid-January the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) issued a [correction](#) to its [2021 Physician Fee Schedule](#) in relation to rules around remote physiologic monitoring (RPM) services. Sections published in the original Fee Schedule released on December 1, 2020 inadvertently left out some key points that responded to public comments on the RPM codes. The new language specifies that the 20 minutes of time associated with CPT codes 99457 and 99458 includes but is not limited to interactive communication with a patient. It can also include non-face-to-face care management services, for example. CMS also clarified that only one practitioner can bill CPT codes 99453 and 99454 during a 30-day period and only when at least 16 days of data has been collected on at least one (but could be multiple) medical device(s). CMS also reminds practitioners that there are several other more specific remote monitoring codes (such as those for continuous glucose monitoring, for example), and in instances where there are more specific codes, those should be used instead. To read the full details of all the changes, see [the full text of the corrected 2021 Physician Fee Schedule](#).

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