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COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

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Rancho Mirage shooting: Dr. David Duffner slain by Walter Carter, sheriff says



Desert Sun

It is with regret and sadness that COA must inform you that one of our long-time members in the Palm Springs area, has been shot and killed by a patient. [READ MORE](#)

Job posting at Santa Rosa Orthopaedics



SRO

JOB SUMMARY: The Medical Billing Manager is a full-time position responsible for overseeing the billing coding staff and making day-to-day decisions; responsible for understanding and coding all procedures within regulatory mandates; assists with following up on insurance claims, and submit appeals as needed. This position is responsible for directing and coordinating the overall functions of the billing and coding office to ensure maximization of cash flow while improving patient, physician, and other customer relations. The Medical Billing Manager position requires the ability to produce and present detailed billing activity reports. [READ MORE](#)

Changes to Physician Compare tool coming



CMS

In a recent [blog](#) post, CMS announced changes to its various public quality performance tools, such as Physician and Hospital Compare. The goal of these tools is to help beneficiaries make informed healthcare decisions, find physicians, and view certain performance data collected from quality reporting programs like MIPS. While there are currently eight independent tools, this spring CMS plans to combine and standardize these existing Compare tools. CMS claims this will permit users to access the same information through a single point of entry and simplify navigation to find the information that is currently divided. This new version will be called Medicare Care Compare. In the past, CMS has established review and dispute periods to correct preliminary datasets. MGMA encourages members to access [Physician Compare](#) to ensure the accuracy of data during such periods and will keep members informed about future review opportunities, as well as any further developments about the new Care Compare website. [READ MORE](#)

FDA clears 'world's first' portable, low-cost MRI following positive clinical research



Health Imaging

Magnetic resonance imaging is no longer confined to radiology departments. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced Wednesday that it has provided clearance to the "world's first" bedside MRI system, according to an announcement. Hyperfine said it will begin shipping its portable, low-field modalities this summer. It's 510(k) clearance falls on the same day that Yale researchers reported the device can accurately

and safely image patient's brains for stroke. [READ MORE](#)

MGMA highlights 6 medical practice trends for the new decade



Health Leaders

Cost containment is a common theme of most trends that are expected to affect medical practices over the next 10 years. The Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) has identified six trends that are likely to have a major impact on medical practices over the next decade. MGMA, which is based in Englewood, Colorado, has about 55,000 members nationwide. [READ MORE](#)

Proposed budget would cut Medicare and Medicaid funding in FY 2021



King & Spalding

On February 10, 2020, the White House unveiled its [proposed budget](#) (the Budget) for FY 2021, which would decrease funding for HHS by 10 percent. Medicare and Medicaid would bear the brunt of these cuts. For both programs combined, the Budget would reduce federal funding by \$1.5 trillion over the next decade. Although the President's Budget is not binding and is not expected to pass in its current form, it nonetheless offers insight into the Administration's current priorities for healthcare policy. [READ MORE](#)

The VA recommends apps for PTSD and pain management. It's led to new veteran privacy concerns



Fierce Health

Federal lawmakers are taking a hard look at how the VA protects patient data shared with VA-approved health apps. As more health data is shared with technology companies and mobile apps, it raises concerns about potential privacy and security risks for veterans, according to federal lawmakers charged with oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs' IT modernization efforts. [READ MORE](#)

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