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COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

March 12, 2021

TOP NEWS

California Orthopaedic Association Sponsors Legislation

AB 356 (Chen) – Fluoroscopy Certification in California

For the last several years, COA has been working to either provide an alternative way of meeting California's requirement that surgeons take and pass a fluoroscopy certification test before allowing them to use fluoroscopy in surgery or provide a temporary certification while they apply and take the test. This is a particular problem for surgeons moving to California who are unaware of this fluoroscopy certification requirement. They can be delayed getting into practice for 6 months. This can also be a problem for residents training in California if their program does not make them aware of the requirement and get them set-up to take the test. The Radiologic Health Branch (RHB) has opposed COA's previous efforts.

This year, COA is sponsoring legislation which would allow surgeons to apply for a one-time temporary fluoroscopy permit for a period of 12 months to allow time for them to apply for and take the state mandated fluoroscopy test. We have shared the language with the RHB and asked them to support this approach. They have a similar exemption for Radiologic Technologists using fluoroscopy during their training program.

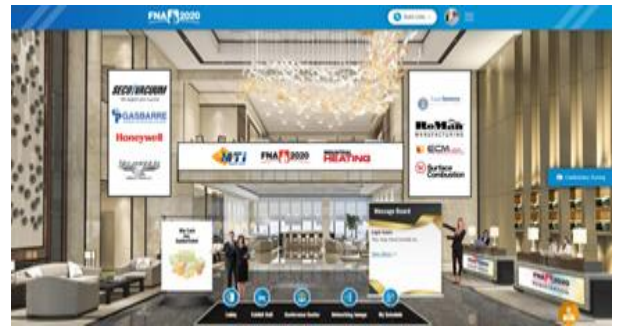
AB 404 (Salas) – Medical-Legal Fee Schedule – Cost-of-Living Increase

Even though the Division of Workers' Compensation has adopted an updated fee schedule effective April 1, 2021, they did not include an annual cost-of-living (COLA) increase to the fee schedule. COA believes that this is an important component of any fee schedule to keep the fee schedule current. Since the COLA was not included in the update, COA has introduced legislation to require the DWC to include an annual COLA adjustment.

This is the first year of a two-year legislative session. Many bills have been introduced on a wide range of topics. COA is opposed to legislation:

- AB 1132 (Wood) – which would require the California Attorney General to approve the sale or merger of medical practices.

Attend COA's 2021 Annual Meeting to learn more about legislation being considered in California this year. [REGISTER HERE](#)



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Rethinking the Kitchen Sink Strategy

Boxer+Gerson

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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DWC Emergency Regulations for Medical-Legal Evaluations and Reporting in Response to COVID-19 in Effect through October 12, 2021

Division of Workers' Compensation

California Division of Workers' Compensation announces that emergency regulations allowing medical-legal evaluations using telehealth services are extended through Oct. 12, 2021.

The rules, which also modify some med-legal deadlines, were set to expire Friday.

Under the emergency rules, the deadline to schedule or reschedule a medical-legal exam is extended to 90 days from the normal 60 days. The DWC also added 15 days to all deadlines for preparing and serving med-legal reports.

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CMA Looking for Physicians Contracted With Three Rivers Provider Network

California Medical Association

The California Medical Association (CMA) recently sent a letter to Three Rivers Provider Network (TRPN) demanding that it cease engaging in an illegal check scheme in California. TRPN has been engaging in a deceptive business practice in the form of a \$15 check being delivered to California physician practices, accompanied by complicated, vague and ambiguous "fine print" that purports to create a binding participation agreement if cashed by the practice.

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Amazon Expanding Health Centers To 5 States

Becker's Hospital Review

Amazon is opening health centers in five states to provide primary care to its employees. Here are six things to know:

1. To open the health centers, Amazon partnered with Crossover Health, a medical group that works with self-insured employers. The partnership also allows employees to access telehealth services via Crossover Health.
2. The facilities are called Neighborhood Health Centers, and they operate on extended hours during both the workweek and weekends to accommodate employee schedules.
3. Amazon opened its first Neighborhood Health Center in Dallas in July 2020. It also has centers in Phoenix, Louisville, Ky., and plans to open them in Detroit and San Bernardino/Moreno Valley, Calif.
4. After expanding into Michigan and California, Amazon will have health centers near fulfillment centers in five states: Texas, Arizona, Kentucky, Michigan and California.
5. The goal of the health centers is to lower the cost of healthcare by encouraging employees and their family members to go to the centers for primary care instead of more expensive emergency rooms or urgent care centers.
6. Amazon and Crossover Health said they have launched 17 health centers in cities across the country with the expansion.

[Read the full news release here.](#)

COA Report

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