

March 17, 2020



[Home](#) | [About](#) | [Members](#) | [Annual Meeting](#) | [Education](#) | [Advocacy](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Archive](#) | [Advertise](#)

How is Your Practice Changing as a Result of the Coronavirus?



As orthopaedic practices change to limit exposure to the Coronavirus, here are some resources for you to consider:

[Latest News from CMS Regarding Telehealth Visits](#)

Telehealth Visits

New Legislation passed by Congress and signed into law on March 6, 2020 reduces the CMS Medicare restrictions regarding telehealth visits: You will note that this summary states that It is possible that, “in response to Congress’s direction that the Secretary may allow telehealth services to be provided via smartphone, Secretary Azar may determine to loosen HIPAA requirements to further enable medical care via smartphone during this emergency. But, for the time being, HIPAA remains fully applicable to medical services provided via telehealth.”

FYI, COA is in discussions with several firms to create a new COA member benefit to allow Telehealth visits and HIPAA secure messaging via a computer or smartphone for those who may not have this capability within their EHR or practice management system. DrFirst is one of the firms being considered. They have software called “Backline Telehealth” and offering the software at a rate of \$300 per year per provider. For more information contact – Eric Shark – eshark@drfirst.com Tell Eric that you are a COA member.

[Telehealth CPT Guidelines](#)

COA’s White Paper on Telehealth Visits – [Telehealth in Orthopaedics: An Essential Technology](#)

[Prior CMS Guidelines on Telehealth Visits](#)

[Surgeon General advises hospitals to cancel elective surgeries](#)

[Facts About the Coronavirus](#)

Other Resources for COA Members?????

If you have other practice changes that may be helpful for orthopaedic practices to consider, please send them to COA and we will share them with your colleagues.

Prior Authorization Process for Certain Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetic, Orthotics, Supplies (DMEPOS) Items



CMS
Update March 10, 2020: CMS will host a Special Open Door Forum call to discuss the addition of six lower limb prosthetic HCPCS codes to the Required Prior Authorization List on Wednesday, March 11, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). Slides will be posted in the Downloads section below in advance of the call. For more information, please visit the Special Open Door Forums webpage.

[Medicare CMS — Required Prior Authorization — DME More Lower Extremity Devices Will Need Prior Authorization as of May 1, 2020](#)

A New Game In Town: Concepts and Opportunities in Direct-to-Provider Contracts



King & Spalding

As employers look for new ways to control healthcare costs and provide innovative healthcare offerings to their employees, employers are starting to consider the “direct-to-provider” contracting model as a way to achieve these goals. [READ MORE](#)

Impacts of United's recent strategic terminations and emergence as a provider on the healthcare marketplace



King & Spalding

UnitedHealthcare ("United"), the nation's largest health insurer, is using a dual strategy to put downward pressure on provider reimbursement rates: (1) strategic contract terminations, combined with (2) heavy investment in its own physician practice operations to allow it to directly compete in the market and drive down rates. [READ MORE](#)

COA Report

Connect with COA



[Recent Issues](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Web Version](#)

[Colby Horton](#), Vice President of Publishing, 469-420-2601 | [Download media kit](#)
[Shawn Smajstrla](#), Editor, 469-420-2605 | [Contribute news](#)

California Orthopaedic Association

1246 P Street | Sacramento, CA 95814 | 916-454-9884 | [Contact Us](#)

[Learn how](#) to add us to your safe sender list so our emails get to your inbox.