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COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

April 15, 2022

TOP NEWS

Successful In-Person Meeting: Thank You for Attending COA's 2022 Annual Meeting/QME Course

It was great to be back in person. You could tell from the more than 375 surgeons and orthopaedic practice managers in attendance that the feeling was definitely mutual.

We hope you enjoyed learning about the latest in orthopaedic procedures and research, hearing from our well-regarded keynote speaker, Joseph Zuckerman, M.D. and other panelists, and networking with your colleagues.



For attendees, you will be provided with a link to the video recordings and handouts from the meeting. They should be available by the end of next week. You will be notified when they are available.

To our members who were unable to join us, you can still participate in the meeting and earn your CME hours by attending the meeting virtually – on-demand. Registration remains open. Just go to: <https://fs17.formsite.com/COAA/itlg8e6e4q/index.html> to register for the virtual on-demand meeting. The registration fee is the same as for the in-person meeting.

For your advance planning, COA's 2023 Annual Meeting/QME Course will be held May 18-21, 2023 at the Monterey Convention Center. The conference hotel will be the Portola Hotel and Spa. The room block is already open and available for reservations. The COA group rate is \$245. Call 866-711-1734 to make your room reservation.

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Your Input is Needed

The University of Cincinnati Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine is inviting you to participate in a research study looking at the prevalence of mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression among practicing orthopaedic surgeons and orthopaedic surgery residents in training.

You are being asked to take part in this research study because you are an orthopaedic surgeon or orthopaedic surgery resident. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and your response will be completely anonymous. The study involves completing survey questions on-line one time that will take about 10-15 minutes to complete.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

COA urges you to provide your input.

If you have questions, concerns, complaints and/or suggestions about this research study you may contact the researcher Dr. Dixon at (513) 777-6213.

Vertically Integrated Payer-Provider Groups Raise Antitrust Concerns

Modern Healthcare

More commercial insurers are overhauling their business models in response to changes ushered in by the Affordable Care Act. The ACA's cap on the amount of revenue payers can pocket—through medical loss ratio requirements—and the rise of Medicare Advantage have prompted private payers to purchase physician practices and employ thousands of doctors. UnitedHealth Group, Humana and Aetna are the largest Medicare Advantage carriers in the nation and have been the most active in blurring the payer-provider line.

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FAQs for Providers About the No Surprises Rules

CMS

CMS yesterday posted updated Frequently asked Questions for providers about the No Surprises rules. Information for providers and facilities regarding No Surprises rules, independent dispute resolution, and exceptions to the new rules and requirements can be found at: [Frequently asked questions for providers about the No Surprises rules.](#)

The Public Health Emergency (PHE) Has Been Extended, Once Again!

KarenZupko & Associates, Inc.

HHS Secretary Becerra has once again renewed the PHE that was set to expire on April 16, 2022. While the renewal continues to allow providers (including hospitals and critical access hospitals) to care for patients via telehealth visits, not all waivers were renewed for the 90 day period.

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California Orthopaedic Association Leader Wins AAOS BOC Executive Director of the Year

AAOS
Diane Przepiorski, executive director of the California Orthopaedic Association, was the recipient of the 2021 AAOS Board of Councilors (BOC) Executive Director of the Year Award presented at the AAOS National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference (NOLC)/Fall Meeting. Ms. Przepiorski is a two-time recipient of this award.

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Audits Lead to \$95,750 in Fines for UROs; High Scores Save Administrators From Penalties

Workers Compensation Central
The California Division of Workers' Compensation fined nine utilization review organizations a combined \$95,750 for violations uncovered during 2021 audits. At the same time, while the division identified 75 violations in utilization review audits of 36 claims administrators last year, it waived all penalties because of the high scores the audit subjects earned.

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