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# COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

June 18, 2021

## TOP NEWS

### CA Lifts Most COVID-19 Restrictions; Masks Still Required in All Health Care Settings

California Medical Association

On June 15, 2021, the State of California officially lifted the majority of its COVID-19 restrictions, including most mask requirements for vaccinated people and capacity limitations on businesses and venues. Under the new guidance from the California Department of Public Health masks are not required for fully vaccinated individuals, except in the settings where masks are required for everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

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### Sample Notice To Patients on COVID-19 Changes

CBones

No doubt orthopaedic practices will be receiving many questions from their patients regarding use of masks after June 15, 2021 when California reopens. [Read here for suggested patient notice language from CBones — the orthopaedic practice managers in California.](#)

## PRODUCT SHOWCASE



HEALTHPOINTE™

#### Orthopedic Surgeon for busy practice

Great opportunity for an orthopedic surgeon in a busy practice with excellent compensation. Primarily WC & PI practice with some private insurance patients.

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## Coding for Patient Optimization Work in the Presurgical Period

AAOS

The AAOS Coding Coverage & Reimbursement Committee in conjunction with the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS) Health Policy Council addresses one of the most common coding questions in orthopaedic practices: How should work performed prior to surgery be reported?

To answer this question, we must look to CPT and payer definitions for the global surgical package and consider the evolving nature of the work performed during the presurgical period.

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## Up To \$100,000 Is Still Available in Funding Opportunities From OREF

OREF

Grant applications are still available for pain management and resident research and for support for NIH K08 and K23 awardees. Grants from 5,000 to \$50,000 are available to eligible applicants. [Visit the OREF website for more information and to learn how to apply.](#)

## HHS Extends Timeline for Spending Provider Relief Fund

Foley & Lardner LLP

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued new guidance extending the timeline for health care providers that received more than \$10,000 in payments from the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) to expend and report the funds. While the terms and conditions attached to the PRF funds did not specify a deadline for using the funds, HHS had previously informed providers that all funds must be used by June 30, 2021, and that funds not used by this date would be subject to recoupment. The new guidance extends the timeline for use of PRF payments received after July 1, 2020.

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## ACA Health Insurance Enrollment Sets New Record

California Health Care Foundation

A record 31 million Americans enrolled in Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace or Medicaid expansion coverage nationally this year — nearly 4 million more than signed up in 2020, according to new data from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The total includes about 15 million adults who were covered as of December 2020 through the ACA's Medicaid expansion.

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### COA Report

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[Jason Zimmerman](#), Director of Publishing, Multiview, 469-420-2686 | [Download media kit](#)  
[Brie Ragland](#), Content Editor, Multiview, 469-420-2604 | [Contribute News](#)

**California Orthopaedic Association**  
1246 P Street | Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-454-9884 | [Contact Us](#) | [www.coa.org](http://www.coa.org)

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