



# COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

July 31, 2020

## TOP NEWS

### HHS Officially Renews Public Health Emergency for COVID-19

ModernHealthcare

HHS has officially renewed the public health emergency designation that is tied to significant funding for healthcare providers and state Medicaid programs. HHS Secretary Alex Azar officially extended the COVID-19 public health emergency designation for another 90 days.

Significant funding and regulatory relief for hospitals and other healthcare providers are tied to the emergency, which was set to expire on July 25. Lobbyists and healthcare industry players were concerned that the bureaucratic decision could get caught up in political maneuvering and pressured the administration to continue the emergency. HHS officials had repeatedly signaled HHS' intention to continue the emergency designation, and the agency previously renewed it in April.

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### 3 Things in Sacramento — COA is Lobbying Right Now

COA

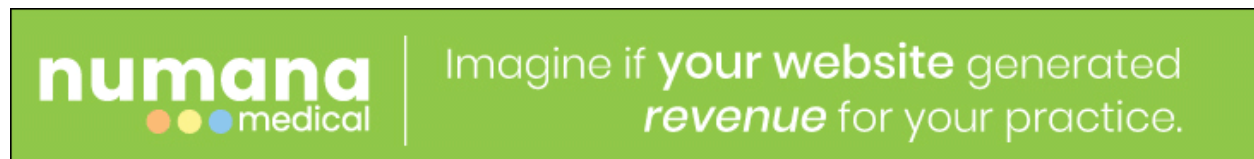
In the last days of the 2020 California Legislative Session, the top priorities for COA are:

**SB 275 (Pan) — Require physician offices to maintain a 90-day supply of Personal Protection Equipment** – COA Position: OPPOSE/Unless Amended COA is looking for amendments to SB 275 to either eliminate physician offices from this requirement or reduce the burden and costs on physicians. The bill also requires the state to maintain a supply of PPEs. COA supports the state being required to maintain a stockpile of PPE to better respond to health

emergencies.

**SB 977 — (Monning) Gives the Attorney General the ability to review and approve health care mergers – including mergers of physician groups** – COA Position: OPPOSE COA is working with a coalition of health care providers and the California Hospital Association to oppose this bill.

**Workers' Compensation — Injured Workers — Temporary Disability Benefits/Modified Work** — With the surgical delays during COVID-19, injured workers needing surgery have been caught in the middle. Some have or will soon reach the end of their allowed 104 weeks of temporary disability or their 90-days of allowed modified work benefits. COA is working with the Governor's office and unions asking for an extension of their benefits - TD and Modified Work - until their surgeries have taken place. COA Position: Support



## California Hospital Ends Merger Talks with Dignity Health

### Becker's Hospital Review

County officials overseeing Ventura (Calif.) County Medical Center have ended months of partnership talks with Dignity Health after leaders from both parties deemed an affiliation too risky, according to a VC Star report. County Health Care Agency Director Bill Foley said San Francisco-based Dignity approached county officials last year for preliminary talks about a partnership. The parties discussed various models, including one in which Dignity would lease and manage VCMC's main hospital in Ventura and its affiliated Santa Paula Hospital.

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## COVID-19 GUIDANCE

### Controlled Environment Makes Elective Orthopedic Surgery Safer in COVID-19 Pandemic

#### Healio Orthopedics

Except for states that have had to cease performing elective surgery due to a recent surge in COVID-19 cases, elective orthopedic surgery has resumed, for the most part, nationwide. To keep those procedures safe for patients and orthopedic surgery teams now, and into the future, orthopedic surgeons and companies have taken steps to reduce the type of contact that might transmit COVID-19, better plan surgical steps and tap into technology that supports safer and more efficient procedures, sources told *Healio Orthopedics*.

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## Updated COVID-19 Testing Guidance

### California Department of Public Health

This guidance is an update to the interim COVID-19 testing guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on May 1, 2020. This updated guidance is intended to support public health officials, health care providers, and laboratories in determining who should be tested given the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic in California.

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### COA Report

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