



COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

Aug. 21, 2020

TOP NEWS

Legislative Alert — Action Needed

COA

AB 890 (Wood) – Expanded Scope of Practice – Nurse Practitioners

COA Position: Oppose

Nurse practitioners have sought the ability to practice without the supervision of a physician for several years. AB 890 is their latest effort.

There is a fundamental problem with AB 890.

The bill allows nurse practitioners to practice without physician supervision after 3 years of experience. Having some experience in medicine is good, but the expanded scope of practice is not tied to their experience. The nurse practitioner could have spent 3 years providing primary care services and then decide to move into providing orthopaedic care without any supervised experience in orthopaedics.

Their expanded scope of practice is not tied to their experience. AB 890 is too broad.

Nurse practitioners are an important part of the orthopaedic health care team. Many orthopaedic surgeons work with nurse practitioners on a daily basis. Currently, nurse practitioners are required to work under protocols with their supervising physician. This model has worked well. We are not hearing nurse practitioners working in the field asking for change. Not sure there is even a problem that needs to be solved regarding specialty care. Patient care problems could emerge with this broad expanded scope of practice.

COA is joining the **California Medical Association** in opposing the bill until these issues can be resolved. The bill has passed the Assembly and will be heard on the Senate Floor next week.

Your action and help is needed on this bill.

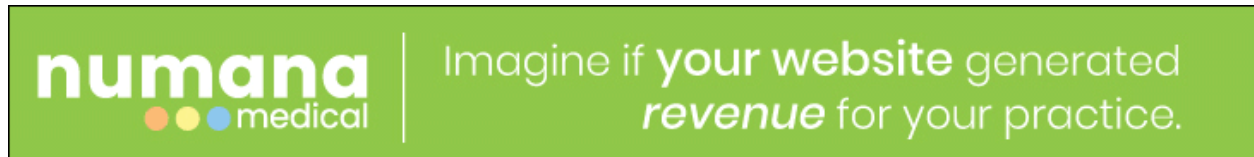
We need you to immediately send an email to your State Senator urging them to vote "NO" on AB 890.

[TAKE ACTION — Send an email to your State Senator.](#)

Should you get a commitment from your Senator, please let COA know — admin@coa.org. Thanks for your active involvement in the political process. You can make a difference.

Russell Nord, M.D.

Chair, COA's Legislative Committee



CMS GUIDANCE

CMS Delays Implementation of Appropriate Use Criteria for Advanced Imaging Services until January 1, 2022

CMS News

A mandate for physicians to use Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) when ordering advanced imaging tests scheduled to be implemented January 1, 2021, has been delayed one year to January 1, 2022. During 2021, CMS continues to encourage physicians to use the AUC criteria, but the requirement will not be mandated and there will be no financial penalties for not using the guidelines.

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The Devil Is in the Details

AAOS

Beginning Jan. 1, 2021, the level of service selection for new and established patient "office or other outpatient" visits will be based only on either medical decision-making (MDM) or time. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) is making dramatic changes to the way those services are defined and documented, impacting billions of healthcare dollars.

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