



COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

Aug. 7, 2020

TOP NEWS

CMS Releases Proposed Changes for 2021

COA

Orthopaedic Surgical Services Proposed to be Reduced 5%

Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Proposed to be Reduced an Additional 5.4%

COA opposes these reductions.

COA leaders, who will be meeting with members of the California Congressional delegation during the month of August, will make them aware of these proposed cuts and ask them to send a letter to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) expressing their concern. If these changes are adopted by Medicare, they will likely also trickle down to group health plans and Workers' Compensation reimbursement rates. Reductions in surgical reimbursements will only further limit patient's access to surgical procedures.

COA will send you a more complete report on the proposed changes as we review over 1,000 pages of proposed changes.

[Read the CMS Announcement](#)

[Read the AAOS Announcement](#)

CMS MEDICARE GUIDANCE

Telehealth: CMS Proposes New Medicare Changes for 2021

Foley & Lardner LLP

On August 3, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the advance copy of its proposed 2021 Physician Fee Schedule rule, which contains new telehealth services covered under Medicare. Compared to last year, where CMS made only minor additions to telehealth services, the changes proposed for 2021 are bold and designed to more deliberately expand the use of telehealth technologies among Medicare beneficiaries.

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Bill Hagerty Wins Tennessee's Bitter Republican US Senate Primary

Yahoo News

Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan Bill Hagerty secured the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate on Thursday after a bitter Tennessee primary battle that centered on support for President Donald Trump.

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The State of the Veepstakes

Los Angeles Times

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden promised at the final Democratic primary debate to name a woman as his running mate. Next week, he's expected to name his choice. Among the contenders are Sen. Kamala Harris, Rep. Karen Bass, former national security advisor Susan Rice, Rep. Val Demings, Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Sen. Tammy Duckworth.

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Feds Sue to Block Geisinger's Partial Acquisition of 132-Bed Hospital

Becker's Hospital Review

The U.S. Justice Department sued to block Danville, Pa.-based Geisinger's partial acquisition of a 132-bed hospital in Lewisburg, Pa. In the antitrust suit, filed Aug. 5, prosecutors said Geisinger and Evangelical are close competitors for inpatient acute care for patients in six counties in Pennsylvania.

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Cedars-Sinai Turns to VR to Train Medical Residents

Modern Healthcare

A virtual reality module on doffing PPE reviews steps a doctor has to take before leaving a patient's room.

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COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Overview of Testing for SARS-CoV-2

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This document provides a summary of considerations and current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations regarding SARS-CoV-2 testing strategy. The CDC recommendations for SARS-CoV-2 testing have been developed based on what is currently known about COVID-19 and are subject to change as additional information becomes available.

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