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# COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

September 17, 2021



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## Medicare Cuts Set for 2022 Without Congressional Action

AAOS

Orthopaedic surgeons, along with much of the physician community, are facing imminent cuts to Medicare payment stemming from the following factors:

- Budget neutrality requirements in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule
- Federally mandated Medicare sequester cuts
- Pay-As-You-Go budgetary restrictions triggered by passage of large legislative packages in 2021

These cuts, when combined, will amount to an up to 10% reduction and would be significantly damaging to physician practices and access to patient care.

In 2021, the impact of these cuts was mitigated thanks to Congress authorizing relief funds through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which eliminated the scheduled 3.75% pay cut. That congressional relief, however, is set to expire at the end of the year.

Reps. Ami Bera, MD (D-CA) and Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN) are working to avert the cuts for 2022 by asking their colleagues to extend the payment adjustment. In their letter to congressional leaders, they explain that the extension would provide immediate relief and continued stability for physicians while Congress works to improve the Medicare payment system more broadly.

Please join AAOS in alerting your congressional representatives to this issue and urging them to sign onto the Bera-Bucshon letter!

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## Apportionment Issues — California Workers' Compensation System

Steven Feinberg, M.D., a well-respected AME, shares his thoughts on sorting out Apportionment Issues – when preparing a Permanent & Stationary (P&S) Report as a treating physician for injured workers or as a Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME).

To read his thoughts, [click here](#).

If you want to share your comments/thoughts about Apportionment with Dr. Feinberg, contact him [stevenfeinberg@hotmail.com](mailto:stevenfeinberg@hotmail.com) with a copy to COA – [admin@coa.org](mailto:admin@coa.org).

## New Provider Relief Funding Available

HRSA

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing \$25.5 billion in new funding for health care providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding includes \$8.5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) resources for providers who serve rural Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or Medicare patients, and an additional \$17 billion for Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 for a broad range of providers who can document revenue loss and expenses associated with the pandemic.

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## DWC Issues Notice to Re-Adopt Emergency Regulation for Medical-Legal Evaluations and Reporting during COVID-19

California Department of Industrial Relations

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) issued its Notice of Emergency Regulation Re-Adoption of regulations sections 46.2 and 36.7 for medical-legal evaluations and reporting. The emergency regulations are set to expire on October 12, 2021, and re-adoption would extend the emergency regulations for an additional 90 days. This is DWC's second and final re-adoption in accordance with Government Code section 11346.1(h).

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## The Pill Linked to Higher Risk of Blood Clots After Knee Surgery

MedPage Today

The use of birth control pills appeared to boost the risk of blood clots in women undergoing simple knee arthroscopy and anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction, a new study found.

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