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## TOP NEWS

### Single-payer debate resurges in California Capitol, as opposition from health providers ramps up — COA joins Health Care Alliance opposing SB 562



The Los Angeles Times

The political battle lines over single-payer healthcare in California are growing starker, with an alliance of doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners and other health providers ramping up their opposition to the proposal. In a letter to legislators, the coalition, unveiled recently, blasted Senate Bill 562 as a proposal that "would dismantle the healthcare marketplace and destabilize California's economy." [READ MORE](#)

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### Medical Board of California sees rise in complaints, disciplinary action



Medical Board of California

The Medical Board of California received more complaints and took more disciplinary action against physicians and surgeons in California during the last fiscal year than the two previous years. The Board also issued more licenses to physicians and surgeons during the same timeframe than it has in the past. [READ MORE](#)

### California CCS and GHPP Programs expand telehealth coverage to more services



Center for Connected Health Policy

In late December the California Department of Health Care Services issued a letter to the California Children

Services program and genetically handicapped persons program administrators, medial consultants and staff regarding new telehealth service codes under the CCS program and GHPP. The letter indicates that upon approval of a CCS/GHPP service authorization request, providers can bill for a series of CPT/HCPCS codes when delivered via telehealth, which were not previously eligible for reimbursement. These codes are now reimbursable in addition to the codes already listed in the Medi-Cal provider manual for the CCS and GHPP programs. The letter does note that the codes must be billed with the appropriate telehealth modifiers and follow other guidelines listed in the Medi-Cal Telehealth Provider Manual. [READ MORE](#)

## Mr. Azar goes back to Washington

Modern Healthcare

It's a propitious time, at least for conservatives, for Alex Azar to take the top job at HHS. All elements have aligned for him to mold the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and Medicare according to a vision they can support. Things have changed since Azar last served at HHS under President George W. Bush. The ACA didn't exist then, and the Bush era's major overhaul to Medicare with Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D became Azar's signature accomplishments during his time at the department. [READ MORE](#)



## Doctors are secretly teaching themselves how to do robotic surgery

Business Insider

Artificial intelligence and robotics spell massive changes to the world of work. These technologies can automate new tasks, and we are making more of them, faster, better and cheaper than ever before. Surgery was early to the robotics party: Over a third of U.S. hospitals have at least one surgical robot. [READ MORE](#)



## What makes humans exceptional? Our neurobiology

The Doctor Weighs In

For decades, Americans have been told that we are an exceptional people with the unapologetic connotation that we are really better than the rest of the world's mortals. Recent headlines have made it clear that we are indeed exceptional but not in the way that you might think. We are worse than other societies in the industrial world when it comes to healthcare, education, wealth disparity, and more. [READ MORE](#)



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