

October 27, 2017



# COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

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## TOP NEWS

### QME dispute gets early hearing



Workers' Comp Executive

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge agreed with Burton Falk of the law firm Roxborough, Pomerance, Nye, and Adraeni, LLP. It will move up a hearing for a preliminary injunction to block the Department of Industrial Relations from denying reappointment to qualified medical evaluators without first holding a due process hearing. [READ MORE](#)

### Select Medical and Dignity Health announce signing of a definitive agreement to combine Concentra and US HealthWorks



Select Medical Holdings Corporation via PRNewswire

Select Medical Holdings Corporation and Dignity Health today announced the signing of a definitive agreement to combine Concentra Group Holdings, LLC, an occupational medicine and urgent care service provider, with U.S. HealthWorks, Inc., a subsidiary of Dignity Health Holdings Company, also a service provider in this sector. [READ MORE](#)

### More Anthem Blue Cross changes announced



HLB

Anthem Blue Cross recently issued two new internal Medical Policies that may constitute material amendments to Anthem's provider agreement and may have considerable adverse impact on hospitals' reimbursement under their agreements with Anthem. Both policies go into effect on January 1, 2018. Click [here](#) to read the Hooper Lundy & Bookman Health Law E-Alert.

Previously announced 2018 Anthem Blue Cross changes affecting orthopaedic practice are:

New and Updated Reimbursement Policies Effective January 1, 2018 — Click [here](#).

Intra-articular Injections of Hyaluronan — COA has also received complaints that Anthem Blue Cross will no longer reimburse for intra-articular injections of hyaluronan Injections to treat osteoarthritis of the knee after December 1, 2017. The Anthem Blue Cross notice states that "intra-articular injections of hyaluronan are considered not medically necessary for the treatment of pain due to osteoarthritis of the knee and all other knee conditions." This is a national Anthem Blue Cross policy. COA is aware that the medical literature may be controversial regarding the effectiveness of these injections. Some supporting the Anthem position and others showing effectiveness for some patients in helping them to delay surgery. COA has contacted Anthem Blue

Cross of California to see if they are open to any clarification of this policy which would allow for coverage of the injections for patients meeting specific criteria.

## Siding with Trump, judge clears way for trial over health subsidies



The New York Times

A federal judge sided with the Trump administration recently in a ruling against 18 states that sought to compel the federal government to pay subsidies to health insurance companies for the benefit of millions of low-income people. "It appears initially that the Trump administration has the stronger legal argument," Judge Vince Chhabria of Federal District Court in San Francisco wrote in the ruling. [READ MORE](#)

## FDA taking new steps to better inform physicians about biosimilars through education about these potentially cost-saving options



U.S. Food & Drug Administration

The cost of prescription drugs is an ongoing concern, however, a growing market for potentially lower-cost biological products called biosimilars can offer more competition and options for patients. Biosimilars can potentially reduce costs for consumers by creating price competition for products that previously faced few market competitors. FDA wants to ensure that health care providers have the information they need when considering prescribing biosimilars when these products are available. [READ MORE](#)

## AMA platform to connect physicians and health technology developers



Healthcare IT News

The American Medical Association introduced an online physician community where doctors can connect with companies and entrepreneurs who are looking for physician input in the development of healthcare technology products and services. The goal is to help improve new products while they are in development. [READ MORE](#)

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