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TOP NEWS

Top risks and rewards of ACOs



Medical Economics

Medicare payment reform took effect this year, and one result is that doctors are showing greater interest in accountable care organizations (ACOs). Developed nearly a decade ago to help rein in the growth of Medicare spending and improve patient outcomes, ACOs now are gaining attention as a way for independent practices to lessen their reporting burden under Medicare's new payment system while possibly increasing their revenue. [READ MORE](#)

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Everything doctors need to know about new payment review strategies



Medical Economics

In an August 2017 notification to providers and suppliers, the Centers for the Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) communicated changes to its medical review and education strategy. CMS will now concentrate its efforts using a program called "Targeted Probe and Educate" (TPE). Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) will identify and selectively audit individual providers with outlier service billing patterns, rather than audit all providers billing the identified service. [READ MORE](#)

Reports: Ascension and Providence St. Joseph in talks to merge



Modern Healthcare

Ascension Health and Providence St. Joseph Health are in talks to merge and create the nation's largest hospital chain, the Wall Street Journal reported on recently. A merger between St. Louis-based Ascension and Providence out of Renton, Wash., would give the combined not-for-profit entity 191 hospitals in 27 states and annual revenue of \$44.8 billion. [READ MORE](#)

DMHC fines Blue Shield of California and Care 1st Health Plan \$457,500 for consumer grievance violations



DMHC

The California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) has taken enforcement actions including a \$322,500 fine against California Physicians' Service (Blue Shield of California) and a \$135,000 fine against Care 1st Health Plan for failing to identify, timely process, and resolve consumer grievances. The plans have also failed to fully and timely provide information to the Department during the investigation of these consumer complaints. [READ MORE](#)

5 operational challenges that may be slowing you down



Orthopedics Today

Is your orthopaedic clinic running as smoothly as it could? Do you find yourself getting behind or waiting around for patients to complete their paperwork? Do your clinics start on time? Do your staff members seem to be overwhelmed? If you answered yes to any of these questions, the following five operational challenges may be the root cause of those issues. [READ MORE](#)

Senate's huge tax bill would have potent ripple effects for health-care system



The Washington Post

The Republican tax overhaul that squeaked through the Senate early Saturday morning would reach deep into the nation's healthcare system, with a clear dagger to a core aspect of the Affordable Care Act and broader ripple effects that could threaten other programs over time. [READ MORE](#)



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