

**Subject:** [TEST] COA Report - December 8, 2017

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**From:** COA Report

**To:** Kate Hessong

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December 8, 2017



# COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

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## TOP NEWS

### FDA alerts consumers about potentially life-threatening health problems linked to Limbrel



U.S. Food & Drug Administration

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommended that Primus Pharmaceuticals, Scottsdale, Arizona, voluntarily recall Limbrel, a capsule marketed to manage the metabolic processes associated with osteoarthritis. The company has not yet acted to remove the product from the market. Although the product is marketed as a medical food, the preliminary determination of the FDA investigation is that Limbrel is an unapproved new drug. The agency does not have mandatory authority over drug products.

The FDA reminds consumers not to use any Limbrel products because of the risk of drug-induced liver injury, and a lung condition called hypersensitivity pneumonitis. Consumers taking any Li

products should stop immediately and contact their health care provider. Health care providers are aware that their patients are taking Limbrel should advise them to stop using it. [READ MORE](#)



## Dignity Health, CHI Announce Major Merger Deal



Media Health Leaders

After a year of negotiations, Dignity Health and Catholic Health Initiatives have signed a definitive agreement to merge operations.

The new, as-yet unnamed health system will be one of the largest in the nation, including more than care sites and 139 hospitals, approximately 159,000 employees and more than 25,000 physicians and advanced practice clinicians. This is a developing story. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

## Toni Atkins will be first woman to lead California Senate



The Sacramento Bee

Toni Atkins will become the first woman to ever lead the California Senate when the Legislature returns next year. Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León announced Thursday that Atkins, a San Diego Democrat, is the consensus pick of the Senate Democratic Caucus to succeed him as leader. She will be formally sworn in in January and a transition will take place later in the year. [READ MORE](#)

## New version of bundled payments will have broader appeal



Health Leaders Media

CMS may appear to be slowing the path to value-based care by ditching some bundled payment models, but a new program could revitalize the effort. The new initiative will draw in more physicians who were previously not attracted to the earlier versions. [READ MORE](#)

## Verticality of CVS-Aetna deal likely means no regulatory challenges



Health Leaders Media

The acquisition of Aetna by CVS Health is likely to go through without antitrust challenges by federal regulators and could spur more vertical integration of healthcare entities, one analyst says. The size of the merger is not enough to make it a problem for the U.S. Department of Justice, says Randal L. Schuchman, a partner at the law firm of Lathrop Gage and chair of the firm's Healthcare Strategic Business Planning Practice group. [READ MORE](#)

## Scripps to shake up leadership structure at hospitals, cut corporate services by \$30M



California Healthline

"None of this is pretty, but we need to see it as an opportunity to create a different future. We can no longer rely on past models," said CEO Chris Van Gorder.

[Modern Healthcare: Scripps Will Cut Hospital Leadership Positions And \\$30 Million In Corporate Services](#)  
Scripps Health is eliminating chief executive positions and cutting corporate services by \$30 million to remain "relevant and viable in a new health care era," according to the San Diego-based system's

The CEO positions at each of the system's four hospitals will be cut. Scripps instead will have one CEO overseeing Scripps Encinitas, Green and La Jolla campuses, another chief executive for the Scripps San Diego and Chula Vista campuses and one CEO over ancillary services. These leaders will supervise chief operations executives at the facilities. In another move, Scripps will create a joint leadership model between hospital executives and physician leaders "to further align physician and hospital objectives."  
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