



June 28, 2019



### Ortho News This Week

#### CA payors put the squeeze on providers (again)



DaisyBill  
In California, box 1a of the CMS 1500 billing form is for the injured worker's Social Security Number (SSN). When the claims administrator insists the provider populate box 1a with anything other than the SSN, the claims administrator is noncompliant. But this non-compliance is a win-win-win strategy that cheats providers out of revenue by incorrectly denying bills.

Are these incorrect denials another bad faith tactic used by some payors to avoid paying provider bills, or is it simple incompetence and misunderstanding of the law? In either case, a payor saves money when denying a bill, even when the denial is based on a noncompliant request for data to be moved to a different (and incorrect) field. [READ MORE](#)



#### Download a CA injured worker intake form [new and updated]



DaisyBill  
Easy workers' comp billing starts with a thorough intake process. California's Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has strict billing and payment guidelines. For providers, staying in compliance (and ensuring proper reimbursement) means getting all the necessary information from the beginning. For that, your office needs a comprehensive injured worker intake form. As it happens, we created an intake form that any California workers' comp provider can use to get exactly what they need, from the start. [READ MORE](#)

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## Get paid for using the patient portal



Medical Economics

In an age of healthcare consumerism, patients increasingly use the EHR portal to communicate with physicians. It's about convenience. They ask for prescription refills, request appointments, pose clinical questions, and more — all without having to call the office or come in to see a provider.

Until now, physicians haven't been able to bill for responding to these messages. But there's good news: effective this year, physicians can potentially report HCPCS codes G2010 (remote evaluation of pre-recorded patient information) and G2012 (brief communication technology-based service) to receive Medicare reimbursement, depending on the specific services rendered. [READ MORE](#)

## 6 ways to put your portal to better use



Medical Economics

In this slideshow, Gary Hamilton, chief executive officer of patient portal software provider IntelliChart, provides six different methods for making the most of your patient portal. [READ MORE](#)

### PRODUCT SHOWCASE



## The Danger of Relying on Others to Review Meds Before Surgery

Hospitals and surgery centers operate with a number of individuals **taking responsibility for a variety of tasks**. A surgeon's reliance on others, however, for the pre-surgery review of medications can expose a patient to catastrophic injury. In this medical malpractice case study, CAP's General Counsel Gordon Ownby analyzes what happens when an interventional pain management specialist relies on others to provide information on a patient before a surgical procedure. [Read more.](#)

## Trump issues executive order on healthcare price transparency



HealthLeaders Media

President Donald Trump issued a highly anticipated executive order Monday, directing federal agencies to push for greater price transparency among healthcare providers and insurers.

In his typical hyperbolic style, Trump described the order's impact as "the opposite of Obamacare" and said some people say it's even "bigger than healthcare itself."

As has been the case with some of his past healthcare-related announcements, Trump's order is light on details and directs Health and Human Services to fill in the gaps with a more fully fleshed policy and a potentially long rulemaking process. [READ MORE](#)

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## New budget boosts health coverage for low-income Californians



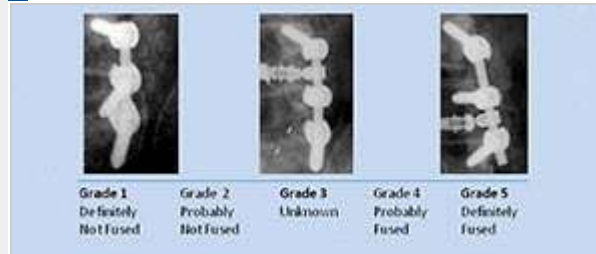
California Healthline

In the state budget for 2019-20, legislators approved \$62.4 million to help about 25,000 older people and those with disabilities get free Medi-Cal. Gov. Gavin Newsom must sign the budget by June 30. That's one of several major investments the \$215 billion budget makes in

Medi-Cal enrollment and services. About 13 million Californians — or about a third of the state's population — have Medi-Cal.

The spending plan also includes money to restore medical benefits that were cut 10 years ago during the recession, such as podiatry and speech therapy. It also provides full Medi-Cal coverage to low-income young adults ages 19 through 25 who are in the country illegally. That will make California the first state in the nation to offer full Medicaid benefits to unauthorized immigrant adults. [READ MORE](#)

## PRODUCT SHOWCASE



### Rare Head-To-Head Comparison of Two Bone Grafts

Two bone graft extenders differing in chemical composition were implanted contralaterally in 2 consecutive patients undergoing instrumented posterolateral lumbar fusion. It was hypothesized differences in biomaterial composition may reveal differences in the rate at which new bone was formed. [Learn more](#)



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## Providence St. Joseph Health to acquire Epic consulting firm



Modern Healthcare

Providence St. Joseph Health will acquire Bluetree, a consulting firm that specializes in managing Epic electronic health record systems, the Renton, Wash.-based integrated health system announced Thursday.

Bluetree has built a client base of more than 140 U.S. hospitals since it was founded in 2012 by former Epic System Corp. executives. The acquisition of Bluetree, which will operate under not-for-profit Providence St. Joseph as an independent for-profit subsidiary, is part the health system's pursuit of diversified revenue streams that will support patient care, executives said. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. [READ MORE](#)

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