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February 9, 2018

COA Report
California Orthopaedic Association

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TOP NEWS

Select Medical and Dignity Health announce completion of transaction to combine Concentra and US HealthWorks

Cision PR Newswire

Select Medical Holdings Corporation and Dignity Health announced the completion of a transaction to combine Concentra Group Holdings, LLC, with U.S. HealthWorks, Inc., a subsidiary of Dignity Health Holdings Company. Concentra has acquired all of the issued and outstanding shares of U.S. HealthWorks from DHHC. Dignity Health owns a 20 percent equity interest in the new entity holding Concentra and U.S. HealthWorks. [READ MORE](#)

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Total knee arthroplasty (TKA): Questions resulting from Medicare change

AAOS

Until recently, total knee arthroplasty (TKA) was included on the Medicare inpatient-only list. In the removal of TKA from the IPO, AAOS is providing answers to some frequently asked questions

updated continually, as questions arise. Please find the most up to date information on the AAOS website. [READ MORE](#)

Judge finds unreasonable delays, possible underground rules in QME denials

WorkCompCentral

A judge in Southern California ruled that the Division of Workers' Compensation appears to have relied on unenforceable underground regulations when it denied applications for reappointment from two qualified medical evaluators and unreasonably delayed hearings when the doctors objected. [READ MORE](#)



National ACA marketplace signups dipped a modest 3.7 percent this year

Kaiser Health Foundation

Overall ACA marketplace signups for 2018 dropped by 3.7 percent compared to last year's enrollment period, a new analysis from the Kaiser Family Foundation finds. 11,760,533 people signed up for 2018 health insurance coverage on the ACA individual marketplaces, amid steep reductions in federal funding for outreach and navigators, an enrollment period half as long and a climate of political uncertainty surrounding the law. [READ MORE](#)



Chorus of healthcare advocates praise single-payer system, but differ on how quickly California should pursue it

Los Angeles Times

A months-long series of informational hearings on achieving universal health coverage in California culminated with experts voicing widespread praise for creating a single-payer system, but starkly different opinions on the pace of such an overhaul. The Assembly convened hearings in the face of activist outrage with last year's shelving of SB 562, an ambitious bill that would establish a state-funded healthcare system to cover nearly all of Californians' medical costs without requiring premiums or co-pays. [READ MORE](#)



Secure communications enhance clinical care for orthopedic surgical hospital

Healthcare IT News

The Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City switched from pagers to cell phones and saved thousands of dollars. The improvement and consolidation in hospital communications also enhanced care, making it more patient-centric. It seems like a simple concept to switch messages from pagers to physician cell phones, but implementation was anything but easy. It changed the clinical communication strategy for one of the world's largest academic medical centers for musculoskeletal health. [READ MORE](#)



4 trends driving digital healthcare transformation

US News & World Report

Healthcare has always been a rich sandbox of creativity and innovation. The past year was no exception: 2017 was marked by the advent of new technology — most notably an explosion of wearable devices and the continued exploration of blockchain's practicality in securing healthcare IT. In 2018, we can expect a broader adoption and normalization of emerging technologies, as well as a heightened, hyperfocus on securing health information technology architectures and sensitive patient information. [READ MORE](#)



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