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April 13, 2018



COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

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TOP NEWS

Scoliosis screening in California public schools

CMA
If you are a CMA member, please support COA's sponsored "Resolution 105-18: Scoliosis Screening in California Schools" which urges CMA to support scoliosis screening in California public schools for females twice (at ages 10 and 12) and males once (at age 13-14). Recent research demonstrates benefits to the student of early identification of these problems.

The CMA Council on Science and Public Health Q2 report is recommending support of the resolution as amended. COA supports their amendments. Their report can be found at:

<https://www.cmanet.org/account/groups/resolutions/view/?resolution=933>

To add your support of Resolution 105-18, click on the above link and post your comments.



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How 3rd parties harvest health data from providers, payers and pharmacies



Modern Healthcare

As the healthcare industry continues to struggle with interoperability, there's one realm in which patient data move remarkably freely: the secondary market. Indeed, hackers aren't the only ones making money off of patient health data. Legitimate companies are cashing in too, including health systems, pharmacies and occasionally electronic health record vendors — and the third parties purchasing the data. [READ MORE](#)

CMS issues final rule allowing states to pick essential health benefits



Modern Healthcare

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued a final rule aimed at giving states and health insurers more flexibility and reducing regulatory burdens in the individual and small group health insurance markets. The final rule allows states to define essential health benefits that individual and small group insurers must offer, gives insurers more options when reporting their medical loss ratios and eliminates standardized plan options to maximize innovation. [READ MORE](#)

Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System



State of California Department of Justice

Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System 2.0 is a database of Schedule II, III and IV controlled substance prescriptions dispensed in California serving the public health, regulatory oversight agencies and law enforcement. CURES 2.0 is committed to the reduction of prescription drug abuse and diversion without affecting legitimate medical practice or patient care.

Mandatory CURES consultation becomes effective on Oct. 2, 2018. [READ MORE](#)

Overdue MIPS eligibility and registry information now online



MGMA
Group practices can now verify their 2018 participation status for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System using the MIPS look-up tool. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will not mail MIPS status letters to group practices in 2018, as it did in 2017. MGMA strongly encourages practice leaders to verify their providers' 2018 MIPS eligibility as clinicians who were required to participate in 2017 may be exempt this year due to an expanded exemption for treating a low volume of Medicare patients. [READ MORE](#)

Leveraging artificial intelligence and blockchain to transform healthcare



The Doctor Weighs In

The costs that result from poor quality trickle down to consumers and patients, who shoulder much of the burden of ever-increasing healthcare costs. In order to improve healthcare accessibility, the utilization of medical resources must be made more accurate, more efficient and more secure. Two cutting-edge technologies, in particular, show significant potential for elevating the use of data and other resources in the medical industry. These technologies are blockchain and artificial intelligence. [READ MORE](#)

Medicare enrollment for providers no longer required under Medicare parts C and D



Healthcare Law Today

On April 2, 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the Contract Year 2019 Final Rules for Medicare Advantage and Part D (the MA Final Rule), incorporating changes that support CMS' stated commitment to supporting flexibility and efficiency throughout the MA and Part D Programs. The MA Final Rule incorporates broad changes to several aspects of the MA program, including changes to the marketing rules, the star rating process and benefit uniformity requirements, among others. [READ MORE](#)

COA Report

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