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April 19, 2018



COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

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TOP NEWS

COA Legislative Alert – AB 3087 (Kalra)

It is critical that you immediately contact members of the California State Assembly to urge a "No" vote on AB 3087. AB 3087 (Kalra) is a dangerous untested bill that would:

- Allow a California Commission to **price fix reimbursement rates for physicians for all commercial patients**. In addition, the bill
- Moves California back to a fee-for-service health care system and away from value-based healthcare where physicians take a more active role in managing the care and health care resources for their patients.
- Creates access problems for patients as physicians are not able to treat patients at reduced reimbursement rates.
- Does nothing to roll-back administrative burdens on physicians that take them away from patient care.
- Stifles innovation and new procedures and techniques - no incentives for surgeons to improve surgical outcomes.

The bill will be heard in the **Assembly Health Committee next Tuesday, April 24**. Even with all-out opposition from health care providers, there is concern that the bill will pass out of the Health Committee due to pressure from legislative leaders.

To counter this pressure, members of the Assembly must hear loud and clear from health care providers in their district that this is a bad bill for patients and providers. It is important for them to be overwhelmed with emails opposed to the bill. If you are personally acquainted with your legislator, it would also be good to make a personal call to them urging a "No" vote on AB 3087.

[Click here to send an email to your Assembly Member](#)

Thanks for your response to this Alert.



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Workers' Compensation Alert

Conduent

Several COA members have reported receiving a request for a refund from Conduent on behalf of StrataCare. Attached is the Conduent letter. COA has confirmed that this is a one-time request.



At the time the claim was paid, StrataCare had not uploaded the most current “injectable validation table” causing the service to be paid at above fee schedule levels. Thus, the refund request.

For more information, the Conduent letter directs you to contact Shelly Rivera – 800-597-4262 ext. 460-0026. [READ MORE](#)

AAOS included in House white paper on opioids



AAOS

On April 11, 2018, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady and Ranking Member Richard Neal, released a white paper with solutions to combat the opioid epidemic. This white paper is the result of feedback the Committee received following a request for information that was sent in February to key stakeholders asking for recommendations. This RFI yielded robust feedback from 110 stakeholders, including American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons. [READ MORE](#)

DEA lifts production quotas to ease injectable opioid shortage



Modern Healthcare

The Drug Enforcement Administration has raised production quotas for drug manufacturers Fresenius Kabi and West-Ward Pharmaceuticals to mitigate the shortage of opioid injectables, but relief is likely months away. Federal regulators and pharmaceutical manufacturers are trying to fill a void left by Pfizer, which produces about 60 percent of the small-dose presentations of injectable morphine, fentanyl and other opioids. Pfizer has been mired in manufacturing hang-ups since July. [READ MORE](#)

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