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COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

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TOP NEWS

DWC agrees to enforce QME rules 'as written' to settle lawsuits



WorkComp Central

The California Division of Workers' Compensation agreed to enforce medical-legal billing rules as they are written as part of a settlement with eight doctors who accused the agency of relying on underground regulations to deny their reappointment as qualified medical evaluators. Although the division didn't admit to using regulations that weren't properly vetted by going through the rule-making process in the Administrative Procedures Act, it still agreed to several changes in how it will interpret the Medical-Legal Fee Schedule in the April 4 agreement. [Read the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release of Claims here.](#) **READ MORE**



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Job Opportunity for Orthopaedic Surgeon

An orthopaedist with a medical-legal practice in Beverly Hills is looking for an associate who is interested in building their medical-legal practice. Please call Jake – 310-927-6619

California Orthopaedic Association
2018 Annual Meeting & QME Course
 CBones Annual Meeting
 Resident/Young Ortho Forum
 May 31 - June 3, 2018
 San Francisco Marriott Marquis

**Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs) are at a Tipping Point:
 The New Reality of Surgical Services for Health Systems**

The role of ASCs are changing. Health plans, including Medicare are looking for less costly settings for total joint procedures. Attend the COA Annual Meeting to learn about new opportunities for ASCs and Recovery Care Centers.

Register to Attend today!
annualmeeting.coa.org

Study: Doctors overprescribe opioids after surgery



UPI

Doctors continue to prescribe far too many opioid painkillers to patients following surgery, a new study indicates. In fact, one of every three patients prescribed an opioid, such as Oxycontin, didn't take a single pill during their recuperation, said lead researcher Elizabeth Habermann. She is scientific director for surgical outcomes at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. [READ MORE](#)

Office of Inspector General audit of telehealth payments reveals confusion over medicare telehealth requirements



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

A report from a recent audit of Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services claims data conducted by the c shows CMS provided payment to practitioners for telehealth services when those services did not meet the appropriate Medicare requirements. OIG conducted the audit in response to increased Medicare telehealth spending from \$61,302 in 2001 to \$17,601,996 in 2015. The report examines a stratified random sample of 100 telehealth claims from practitioners which have no corresponding originating site fee claim. OIG identified 31 claims which did not meet Medicare telehealth requirements. [READ MORE](#)

Apple is launching its own health care service for employees



Quartz

Apple is bringing concierge-like employee health care inside its corporate walled garden. The tech giant will open at least two clinics, called AC Wellness Centers, in Santa Clara County, California, this spring, CNBC reports. One will be on campus at its new spaceship-like headquarters, Apple Park, and one north of it. Both will serve Apple's local employees and families, offering access to primary care doctors, nurse practitioners, exercise coaches and on-site lab tests. [READ MORE](#)

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