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# COA Report

## California Orthopaedic Association

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### TOP NEWS

#### DWC announces formation of Pharmacy and Therapeutics Advisory Committee



COA  
*COA Representative Basil Besh, M.D., is appointed to the Committee.  
First meeting scheduled on Wednesday, Sept. 26 in Oakland*

The Division of Workers' Compensation is pleased to announce the formation of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. The P&T Committee is established pursuant to Assembly Bill No. 1124 (2015) as an advisory body that will consult with the DWC Administrative Director on updates to the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Drug Formulary. [READ MORE](#)



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#### CMS proposes historic changes to modernize Medicare and restore the doctor-patient relationship



CMS  
Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services proposed historic changes that would increase the amount of time that doctors and other clinicians can spend with their patients by reducing the burden of paperwork that clinicians face when billing Medicare. The proposed rules would fundamentally improve the nation's healthcare system and help restore the doctor-patient relationship by empowering clinicians to use their electronic health records to document clinically meaningful information, instead of information that is only for billing purposes. [READ MORE](#)

#### ABOS unveils new MOC Path



American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
In January 2019, the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery will launch a new Maintenance of Certification Part III option to demonstrate evidence of cognitive expertise. The action is a positive development for those who don't relish the prospect of taking a computer-based or oral examination every 10 years to recertify. The new ABOS pathway to MOC, named the ABOS Web-Based Longitudinal Assessment Program, will allow board-certified orthopaedic surgeons (Diplomates) to pursue and fulfill MOC Part III requirements through completion of a single annual assessment using a web-based interface to answer questions on a personal computer. [READ MORE](#)

#### Health Plans terminate relationship with Vantage Medical Group



California Medical Association  
The California Medical Association has learned that two health plans, the Inland Empire Health Plan and Molina Healthcare, are terminating their contracts with Vantage Medical Group. Two other plans, Blue Shield of California and Care1st Health Plan, have

issued notices of material breach with an intent to terminate. The plans have filed requests with the California Department of Managed Health Care to transfer their enrollees to other delegated groups. [READ MORE](#)

## Is it time to lift the ban on physician-owned hospitals?



Medical Economics via Modern Medicine Network

Physician-owned hospitals have strengths that are especially relevant during an age of value-based care and comparison healthcare shopping. In particular, these facilities—essentially banned since 2010—tout superior patient experience and higher quality at a lower cost than competitors. Unlike their nonprofit or academic counterparts, physician-owned hospitals are funded at least partially by physician owners (e.g., 50 percent physician-owned) who receive a bonus based on the facility's profitability. Physician investors, especially primary care physicians, don't necessarily see patients in the hospital at all, but may refer patients seen in their office. [READ MORE](#)

## DMHC directs Anthem to publish effective dates for clinical policies



California Medical Association

In March, the California Medical Association asked the Department of Managed Health Care to investigate Anthem Blue Cross' systematic failure to publish effective dates for its 241 different medical and clinical utilization management policies. Without clearly posted effective dates, the published policies cause confusion and misinform physicians and patients who have no timely method to determine which of Anthem's published policies are effective or what medical services are covered for purposes of providing clinical care, determining cost sharing arrangements, and evaluating the breadth of Anthem's coverage. [READ MORE](#)

## Is your practice primed to launch an orthopaedic urgent care center



American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

As patient care moves to less-acute settings, orthopaedic urgent care is becoming more common. One of the most common reasons for emergency room care are musculoskeletal, and OUCs are a great opportunity to provide better access, better quality, and better value for their patients and communities. There are many big-picture reasons to consider adding an OUC center to your practice. At a health system level, it can provide huge savings. Physicians must be good stewards of healthcare spending. With \$20 billion spent annually on urgent care, the opportunity for savings is significant. [READ MORE](#)

## California's turn: California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 enhances privacy protections and control for consumers



The National Law Review

On Friday, June 29, 2018, California passed comprehensive privacy legislation, the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018. The legislation is some of the most progressive privacy legislation in the United States, with comparisons drawn to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, which went into effect on May 25, 2018. Karen Schuler, leader of BDO's National Data and Information Governance and a former forensic investigator for the SEC, provides some insight into this legislation, how it compares to the EU's GDPR, and how businesses can navigate the complexities of today's privacy regulatory landscape. [READ MORE](#)

## A Mediterranean-like dietary pattern with vitamin D3 supplements reduced the rate of bone loss in older Europeans with osteoporosis at baseline: Results of a 1-year randomized controlled trial



The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition

The aim of this study was to examine the effect of a Mediterranean-like dietary pattern [NU-AGE (New Dietary Strategies Addressing the Specific Needs of the Elderly Population for Healthy Aging in Europe)] on indexes of inflammation with a number of secondary endpoints, including bone mineral density and biomarkers of bone and collagen degradation in a 1-year multi-center randomized controlled trial (RCT; NU-AGE) in elderly Europeans. [READ MORE](#)

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