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July 27, 2018



# COA Report

## California Orthopaedic Association

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### TOP NEWS

#### Lessons Learned from the AAOS Professional Compliance Program



AAOS Now

During the 13-year history of the AAOS Professional Compliance Program (PCP), common themes have emerged in the grievance submissions. This article, the first of an ongoing series, examines some of the lessons learned under the [Standards of Professionalism \(SOP\) for Expert Opinion and Testimony](#). [Read More](#)

**It is important to note**, that inappropriate utilization review decisions also fall under the purview of the PCP. In fact, the AAOS has developed an Information Statement entitled, [Orthopaedic Surgeon's Role in Medical Peer Review](#). [Read More](#)

The AAOS Committee on Professionalism has reviewed 10 such UR complaints, but has yet to take action against any Fellow for inappropriate utilization review decisions. **We would urge our members to consider filing a complaint with the AAOS Committee on Professionalism should you be aware of an orthopaedic surgeon who routinely makes inappropriate utilization review decisions.** It is a rigorous process that you must go through when you file a complaint, but if the Committee agrees with your concerns, it could result in the AAOS imposing sanctions.



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#### 2019 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Proposed Rule Summary



American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the 2019 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule on July 12, 2018. This rule now includes updates to the Quality Payment Program. These changes would affect payment under Medicare Part B. Comments will be accepted through September 10, 2018. The 2019 Medicare Physician Payment Schedule Conversion Factor will be increased to 36.0463, up from 35.99 in 2018. This update reflects the statutory update factor of 0.25 percent, as required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, and a budget neutrality adjustment of - 0.12%. The combined impact of Work, Practice Expense and malpractice Relative Value Unit changes for orthopaedics is 1%.

[2019 MPFS Full Summary](#)

[2019 MPFS Executive Summary](#)

#### COA Members Show Support for Congressman Ami Bera, M.D.





Kris Okumu, M.D. (left) long-time friend of Congressman Bera, Paul Braaton, M.D. (right), COA's OPAC Chair, Rosa Braaton (not pictured), and Diane Przepiorski, COA Executive Director attended the CMA/AMA fundraising event for Dr. Bera. Dr. Bera updated attendees on his legislative priorities which included expanding Health Savings Accounts to individuals covered by Medicare.



## AAOS: BOS Now

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

The 2018 NOLC Capitol Hill Day on June 7 featured 412 scheduled hill visits with members of Congress from both chambers and both parties, with 280 orthopaedic surgeons participating. In preparation for the hill visits, Dr. Gibson, Chair of the Council on Advocacy, and the Office of Government Relations created three unique webinar presentations to prepare members for their visits to Capitol Hill. The webinars were designed for novice, intermediate, and experienced advocates and reviewed logistics and expectations as well as the three issues and talking points. [READ MORE](#)

## CMS recoupment efforts stopped by court while overpayment appeals are pending



Health Care Law Today

Providers and suppliers who have been assessed overpayments for Medicare services are entitled, by statute, to a stay of recoupment while the provider or supplier's appeal is pending – but only at the first two levels of administrative appeal. If both appeals are unfavorable to the provider or supplier, the next step is an appeal to the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals, where the matter is heard by an Administrative Law Judge. During the now lengthy waiting time for the ALJ hearing, Medicare will recoup the overpayment by withholding current payments until the overpayment and interest are fully recovered. [READ MORE](#)

## CWCI examines CA prescription drug UR/IMR outcomes under new workers' compensation formulary



Work Comp Wire

A new California Workers' Compensation Institute analysis offers a preliminary look at Utilization Review and Independent Medical Review outcomes involving pharmaceutical requests for California injured workers since the state implemented a workers' comp formulary in January of this year. In October 2015, Governor Brown signed AB 1124 mandating the adoption of an evidence-based formulary for medications prescribed to California injured workers and calling on the state Division of Workers' Compensation to incorporate the formulary into its Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule. [READ MORE](#)

## 21st century prescription medication tools for physicians and patients



Medical Economics

Healthcare costs are continually on the rise. Between 1995 and 2015, U.S. healthcare spending grew at an annual rate of 4 percent, which far outpaces the annual economic growth rate of about 2.4 percent. Of this increase, a large contributor is the rising cost of prescription medication. The U.S. pharmaceutical market is unique in that the manufacturer is able to set their drug costs at any price. This is in contrast to other nations with a national healthcare service, where the government is able to negotiate price and reject certain drugs for the entire nation. [READ MORE](#)

## Google nabs former Cleveland Clinic CEO Toby Cosgrove



Health Leaders Media

Toby Cosgrove, M.D., the Cleveland Clinic's former top executive, will share a stage with several colleagues from his new employer: Google. Cosgrove, who served as the clinic's CEO from 2004 through 2017, signed on as an executive advisor to the Google Cloud Healthcare and Life Sciences team, the company announced recently. An update to his LinkedIn profile indicates he's been in the role since January. [READ MORE](#)

## How causation is determined in workers' compensation cases continues to evolve



AAOS Now

Determining causation is a critical issue for diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions and diseases. The science of causation continues to improve with additional research; however, because the concept has different meanings and applications for various parties, its definition remains elusive. By definition, cause is something that results in an effect. [READ MORE](#)

## How to hire a superstar scribe



Orthopedics Today via Healio

If you have been thinking about hiring a scribe to handle your electronic health record data entry, then you are not alone. More physicians are hiring scribes to reduce administrative overload. Physicians who use them report improved quality of life, clinic efficiency and productivity. If U.S. industry estimates prove accurate, by 2020 there will be 100,000 medical scribes or one scribe for every nine physicians. The three options for finding the right superstar to support you are develop one from within, recruit a scribe or engage a scribe service. [READ MORE](#)

## COA Report

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