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# COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

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## Ortho News This Week

### COA Stem Cell Survey



COA  
A Biologic Boom: What are the Rules?

Health care providers are marketing stem cell therapy for all kinds of ailments. There has been an explosion of small clinics offering these injections with little or no federal or state oversight. This has led to patients being confused as to whether the injections can be helpful for their MSK problems. Injection of stem cells can be expensive with prices varying greatly. The costs are not generally currently covered by group health plans, so the cost is out-of-pocket for patients.

Many times, orthopaedic surgeons are asked to separate fact from fantasy. It is in the best interest of MSK patients and orthopaedic surgeons to rein in any misleading advertising as to the proper use and efficacy of stem cell injections.

"What we do know is that autologous products are relatively safe, but the quality of data for efficacy is poor," stated William Maloney, M.D., Immediate Past President AAOS at a symposium at the AAOS 2018 Annual Meeting. In addition, Jason L. Drago, M.D. presented an educational session at COA's 2018 Annual Meeting on what is currently known about stem cell therapy. "One particular area of concern is when biologics are mixed with other products and then injected. The combining of these products seem to be more a marketing tactic than backed by high quality research to show that the injection of these combined products result in better outcomes for patients. In fact, in some cases this combining can make the injections more dangerous for patients."

COA would like to hear from you as to what is happening in Your Community.

Are you seeing misleading claims of when stem cell therapy can be helpful for patients? Are you aware of health care providers/clinics in your community who are using unsafe products or methods?

**Please complete this COA Survey to provide your input.**

COA will be collecting this data and, if appropriate, filing complaints with the appropriate state licensing authority. All individual responses will be kept confidential.

Do you use stem cell therapy in your clinical practice?

[Yes](#)

[No](#)

## Medicare under observation



Fact Check

Doctors place hospital patients under observation to determine if they should be formally admitted as inpatients or if they can be discharged without further treatment. In most cases, the decision to admit a patient can be made in under 48 hours, and many times in less than 24 hours, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Hospital costs for admitted inpatients are covered under Medicare Part A after the patient pays a deductible (\$1,216 for 2014). But observation care is considered an outpatient service, and Part A doesn't cover such services. [READ MORE](#)

## Contract termination provisions — physician contract basics



Karen Zupko & Associates

If a group's governance agreement is solid, if it has an effective physician rights and responsibilities document, behavior guidelines and expectations have been spelled out. On that foundation, we advise that the partners, and the administrator when appropriate, conduct several on-record conversations with the physician who is failing to meet group standards or follow established rules. Involve a healthcare attorney and document the meetings for the physician's file, as you would with an employee being disciplined. [READ MORE](#)

## Apple is building a team to make custom chips for health data



Beckers Hospital Review

Apple wants to build its own custom processor chips that could better understand health information collected from sensors — ultimately prolonging battery life and enhancing performance of its products — according to job listings reviewed by CNBC. According to a July 10 job posting for Apple's Health Sensing hardware team, the iPhone maker is "looking for sensor ASIC architects to help develop ASICs for new sensors and sensing systems for future Apple products." ASIC refers to an application-specific integrated circuit, or a microchip designed for a specific application, such as a handheld computer or a wearable fitness tracker. [READ MORE](#)

## Mayo Clinic tops US News hospital honor roll for 3rd straight year



Health Leaders Media

For the third consecutive year, Mayo Clinic sits atop the Honor Roll of the nation's top hospitals, as ranked by U.S. News & World Report. "We are humbled and honored by our ranking with U.S. News & World Report," said Gianrico Farrugia, M.D., the CEO of Mayo Clinic in Florida. Farrugia was named CEO-elect of the prestigious Rochester, Minnesota-based health system last week. "We have continuously refined our system of care for more than 150 years. We are always working to deliver accurate answers as quickly as possible and ensure the best outcomes for our patients," Farrugia said. [READ MORE](#)

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