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September 14, 2018



# COA Report

## California Orthopaedic Association

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### Ortho News This Week

#### UnitedHealthcare Community Plan preps for entry into additional Medi-Cal and Medicare Advantage markets



California Medical Association

Looking to potentially increase its presence in the Medi-Cal and Medicare Advantage marketplace by 2021, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of California is building its provider network and has issued unilateral contract amendments to some contracted physicians in seven California counties. Select UHC providers in the seven counties who are not currently contracted for the Medicare Advantage product will receive a combined contract amendment for participation in both UHC Community Plan of California and UHC Medicare Advantage products. [READ MORE](#)



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### Job Opportunity

#### Orthopaedic Surgeons needed in the Grass Valley Area



Synergy Surgicalists

Synergy Surgicalists is recruiting both acute care and elective orthopedic surgeons to join our team at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital in Grass Valley, California.



- Work a minimum of 10 days per month
- Elective schedule is Monday – Friday — no call duty
- Acute care schedule rotates 24/7/365 with teammates
- Malpractice coverage is provided
- Competitive per diem compensation including percent of collections
- Not required to live near the facility
- Focus on patients and surgery and not administrative hassles
- Collaborative teamwork environment with supportive clinic staff
- Work with a company created by and for surgeons
- **\$5,000 sign-on bonus**
- **Active California license is required**

Partner with Synergy Surgicalists and get more than a locums position. Build a consistent working relationship with Synergy, and achieve the work/life balance you want.

Please submit your CV to [recruitment@synergysurgicalists.com](mailto:recruitment@synergysurgicalists.com). We look forward to discussing these acute and elective orthopedic opportunities with you soon.

888-892-7575

## When patients demand unnecessary medical tests



Medscape

What are the physician's ethical responsibilities when a patient demands an unnecessary or questionable medical test or procedure? Dr. Wilner's case vignette raises this question in the context of a 21-year-old woman with a 10-day history of intermittent numbness and tingling who feared she had multiple sclerosis. Although Dr. Wilner's neurologic examination was within normal limits, both the patient and her mother demanded an MRI scan, which Dr. Wilner believed was unlikely to reveal significant pathology. Nevertheless, in the face of the "extremely demanding" patient and mother, the MRI was ordered — and, as anticipated, showed no significant abnormalities. [READ MORE](#)

## MIPS Promoting Interoperability hardship exception now available



CMS

Those participating in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) during 2018 as an individual, group, or virtual group — or participating in a MIPS Alternative Payment Model — can submit a [Quality Payment Program Hardship Exception Application](#) for the Promoting Interoperability (PI) performance category (formerly Advancing Care Information), citing one of the following reasons:

- Small practices (new for 2018);
- Using decertified EHR technology (new for 2018);
- Insufficient Internet connectivity;
- Extreme and uncontrollable circumstances;
- Lack of control over the availability of certified electronic health record technology.

If the hardship exception is approved, CMS will reweight your PI performance category score to 0% of the final score and reallocate the 25% weighting of the PI performance category to the Quality performance category.

**The application must be submitted to CMS by Dec. 31, 2018.**

For more information on this exception visit CMS's Quality Payment Program website here: [Quality Payment Program](#)

## COA Report

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