

October 8, 2019



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## Ortho News This Week

### Cannabis and cannabinoids may be effective for pain control via select routes of administration



Clinical Pain Advisor

Cannabis and/or cannabinoids, when consumed through certain routes of administration, may reduce pain levels significantly, according to a systematic review and meta-analysis published in the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association. Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) are the 2 active ingredients in cannabis responsible for pain mitigation, with bioavailability and analgesic effect that depend on the administration route. [READ MORE](#)

### Upcoming MIPS Important Dates and Deadlines



CMS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) would like to remind clinicians of important upcoming Merit-based Incentive Payment (MIPS) dates and deadlines:

**October 1** – 2020 [virtual group](#) election period opened. Solo practitioners and groups with 10 or fewer clinicians (including at least 1 MIPS eligible clinician) who want to participate in MIPS as a virtual group for the 2020 performance period must submit their election to CMS.

**Thursday, October 3** – The last day to begin data collection for a continuous 90-day performance period for the [Improvement Activities](#) and [Promoting Interoperability](#) performance categories.

*Note: Most, but not all, improvement activities have a continuous 90-day performance period, but several improvement activities require completion of modules where there is a year-long or alternate performance period. The performance period is 90 days unless otherwise stated in the activity description.*

**December 31** – 2019 Promoting Interoperability Hardship Exception and Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances [Applications](#)  
Clinicians, groups, and virtual groups who believe they are eligible for these exceptions may apply, and if approved, will qualify for a re-weighting of one or more MIPS performance categories.

*Note: CMS will notify applicants via email whether their requests are approved or denied. If approved, the exception will also be added to the QPP Participation Status Tool but may not appear in the tool until the submission window is open in 2020.*

**December 31** – 2020 virtual group election period closes.

**January 2, 2020** – 2019 MIPS performance period data submission window opens.  
**March 31, 2020** – 2019 MIPS performance period data submission window closes.

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California Orthopaedic Associations

SAVE THE DATE

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JANUARY 1, 2020

**COA 2020 ANNUAL MEETING**  
QME COURSE & CBONES ANNUAL MEETING  
April 16-19, 2020  
Terranea Resort, Rancho Palos Verde, CA

## How health reimbursement agreements (HRAs) help employers expand coverage options for their employees



CMS.gov

Health coverage is a key benefit employers offer workers in order to attract and retain the best and the brightest. Yet employers face numerous complex regulatory rules and administrative burdens in providing health coverage to their employees. Most big employers have entire departments devoted to understanding the rules and administering health coverage. [READ MORE](#)

## Walmart pilots health center, pushing deeper into provider space ripe for disruption



HealthLeaders Media

There's more than a fresh coat of paint at a newly remodeled Walmart supercenter in Dallas, Georgia, where the company aims to deliver a better shopping experience not only for electronics and home goods but for healthcare services as well. The retail giant opened its first Walmart Health prototype this month, partnering with local providers to offer an array of services, including primary care, lab work, x-rays, EKGs, vision and hearing care, counseling, and more right there at the store, accessible through a separate entrance. [READ MORE](#)

## Does value-based pay have a future?



Medical Economics

Value-based care has created a conundrum: pretty much everyone in healthcare likes the idea of paying for outcomes, but no one is sure how to fairly implement it. The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) introduced a new world of value-based care to many physicians and was a major step away from fee-for-service. Gone was the Sustainable Growth Rate, replaced with a program that was supposed to drive costs down by reimbursing for quality patient outcomes. [READ MORE](#)

## FDA OK of mHealth wearable puts pain management in the spotlight



mHealth Intelligence

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved an mHealth wearable that's designed to relieve chronic pain for up to a decade without needing a recharge. The FDA's green light for Abbott's Proclaim XR digital health platform follows the reported success of the company's BOLD (BurstDR micrOdosing stimuLation in De-novo patients) study, in which 24 patients using the device reported pain relief within six hours, and half found relief within two hours. [READ MORE](#)

## COA Report

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