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TOP NEWS

COA Member Benefit — HealthLoop



HealthLoop



At HealthLoop, we're doing what we've done from the beginning: providing a solution for surgeons to offer digital care monitoring which empowers patients to be active participants in their own care.

HealthLoop's solution allows surgeons to electronically communicate with their post-surgical patients to monitor their recovery and respond to any patient questions or concerns. The communication can be a one-way communication — sending patients reminders —or a two-way interaction — enabling dialogue. Providers can choose how to set up the solution best suited to their needs. HealthLoop offers COA members a discount. [READ MORE](#)

States lift more hurdles to physician assistants



Forbes

An unprecedented number of regulatory hurdles are falling for physician assistants seeking more autonomy in their efforts to treat patients. In some cases, states are easing barriers that in the past led to redundant tasks or slowed the ability of patients to get the care they needed in a timely fashion. Such changes to regulations or scope of practice laws are taking effect this year as the result of state legislative sessions completed this summer. [READ MORE](#)

SB 189 — Workers' Compensation Insurance for Physicians



COA

This COA-supported bill clarifies legislation that passed last year that required physicians, with less than a 15 percent ownership interest in their medical corporation, to purchase Workers' Compensation insurance. SB 189 creates an exemption for physicians who are an owner of a professional corporation rendering the professional services for which the professional corporation was organized and who signs a waiver of coverage and confirms that they are covered by a health insurance policy. The bill would be effective July 1,

2018. Passage of this bill will save orthopaedic groups thousands of dollars in Workers' Compensation premiums. The bill is on the Governor's desk awaiting his consideration.

Maximus gets it wrong in 99358 IBR decision



DaisyBill

Maximus Federal Services, the arbiter of Independent Bill Review for the California Division of Workers' Compensation, has denied payment to a provider due to a an error on Maximus' own part. The mistake, based on an outdated status code designation for CPT codes 99358 and 99359, is one DaisyBill anticipated. With Maximus behind the curve on changes to the Official Medical Fee Schedule effective this year, other providers may be in danger of the similar mistreatment. [READ MORE](#)

William Bruce named Executive Director of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine



AACOEM

William C. "Bill" Bruce, CAE, MBA, has been named executive director of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, effective July 1, 2017, to replace the current director who has elected to retire. "We are thrilled to have Bill Bruce joining us as our new executive director," said Charles M. Yarborough III, MD, MPH, FACOEM, who is President of ACOEM. "Bill is an accomplished association executive with a strong record of achievement and leadership in overseeing strategic initiatives, business operations and technology solutions. We are confident he will capably guide and enhance ACOEM's education, research, practice and policy programs, thereby advancing the field of occupational and environmental medicine." [READ MORE](#)

Joint Commission introduces new accreditation standards for telehealth services



Healthcare Law Today

The Joint Commission has proposed changes to its accreditation standards to account for direct-to-patient telehealth services. The new standards will apply to Joint Commission-accredited hospitals and ambulatory health care organizations offering direct-to-patient telehealth services. Accredited hospitals and organizations, as well as entrepreneurial telemedicine companies that contract with such hospitals, should be mindful of these proposed rule changes and how they will affect their telehealth services and operations. The changes are not yet final, so interested providers may want to consider contacting the Joint Commission with comments or feedback. [READ MORE](#)

Noninvasive treatments for acute, subacute and chronic low back pain: A clinical practice guidelines from the American College of Surgeons



Annals of Internal Medicine

Low back pain is one of the most common reasons for physician visits in the United States. Most Americans have experienced low back pain, and approximately one quarter of U.S. adults reported having low back pain lasting at least one day in the past three months. Low back pain is associated with high costs, including those related to health care and indirect costs from missed work or reduced productivity. [READ MORE](#)

Due to CTE risks for players, editorial asks orthopedic surgeons to rethink their support of football



Healio

According to an editorial from Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, orthopedic surgeons should re-evaluate their support of American football as a recently published study in JAMA suggested exposure to the sport was linked with pathological changes in the brain. [READ MORE](#)

Lab-grown bone cell breakthrough heralds new benefits for orthopedics



The University of Glasgow via Bioscience Technology

Technology originally developed to detect gravitational waves is being used to generate tissue engineered

bone grafts for future use in orthopaedic medicine, scientists report in a new paper published recently. The latest development in a technique known as 'nanokicking' has allowed scientists from the Universities of Glasgow, Strathclyde, the West of Scotland and Galway to grow 3-D samples of mineralized bone in the laboratory for the first time. [READ MORE](#)

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