

From: COA Report <coareport@multibriefs.com>
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COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

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TOP NEWS

Changes are Coming to California's Workers' Compensation System



COA

[Changes are Coming to California's Workers' Compensation System](#)

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1. **DWC will be Updating its Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)** — MTUS treatment guidelines that must be used when treating injured workers. The updated MTUS is based on The Reed Group's ACOEM Treatment Guidelines. Other evidenced-based nationally-recognized treatment guidelines can also be used, if the procedure is not addressed in the MTUS. **Effective: December 1, 2017.**
2. **Implementing a Drug Formulary** — The drug formulary is also based on ACOEM recommendations. If you subscribe to the ACOEM Treatment Guidelines, the drug formulary will be integrated into their treatment guidelines making it easier for physicians to determine which medications are indicated for a procedure/condition according to the latest evidenced-based guidelines. Some medications will be "exempted" from prior authorization under specific

circumstances. Injured workers will still have access to other medications with prior authorization. COA was successful in adding some pain and anticoagulant medications to the "exempt" list for patients during their peri-operative period (4 days prior to surgery and 4 days after surgery).

The Drug Formulary is expected to be effective January 1, 2018.

3. **COA Member Discount — ACOEM Treatment Guidelines** — ACOEM is offering COA members a discount when they subscribe to their treatment guidelines. The discounted rate is \$100 per year — guaranteed for 3 years. This is an 85 percent savings. To order the guidelines go to: go.reedgroup.com/mtus If you are already a subscriber to the ACOEM Treatment Guidelines and paying more than the \$100 per year, contact The Reed Group to see if they will adjust your rate.

Amid broad support, the Medical Board of California pushes back on VA's telehealth rule



Fierce Healthcare

A proposal by the Department of Veterans Affairs to override state licensing laws that will serve as the backbone for a nationwide telehealth program received broad support from health IT and provider organizations alike. There was just one exception: California. [READ MORE](#)

CMS Wants Docs To Spend More Time On Patients, Less On Paperwork



Modern Healthcare

The CMS launched an initiative recently to help it determine what provider regulations it should junk or revamp, citing growing concerns that its regulations are reducing the time providers spend with patients. As part of the Patient over Paperwork initiative, CMS officials will travel the country to gather information on the impact their regulations have on physicians. [READ MORE](#)

Private practice — down but far from out



Medscape

Last year, the percentage of physicians who own a stake in their practices fell below the halfway mark for the first time, according to an American Medical Association survey. In 2016, only 47.1 percent of physicians held equity in their practices. That's down from 2000, when 57 percent of all doctors had an equity stake in their practices. [READ MORE](#)

Tapping into the health potential of artificial intelligence



U.S. News & World Report

So much patient data — but what does it all mean? The health care industry is just beginning to realize the possibilities of artificial intelligence to transform care, according to a recent session at the U.S. News Healthcare of Tomorrow conference in the nation's capital. [READ MORE](#)

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