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Ortho News This Week

Final policy, payment, and quality provisions changes to the Medicare physician fee schedule for calendar year 2019



CMS.gov

On November 1, 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that includes updates to payment policies, payment rates, and quality provisions for services furnished under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) on or after January 1, 2019. The calendar year (CY) 2019 PFS final rule is one of several final rules that reflect a broader Administration-wide strategy to create a healthcare system that results in better accessibility, quality, affordability, empowerment, and innovation. [READ MORE](#)

Attend the COA/CBones Coding Course to learn more about the Medicare 2019 Changes



California Orthopaedic Association 

CODING FOR SUCCESS IN 2019

Friday, November 30, 2018

7 AM Registration
8 AM - 4 PM Course

Westin South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa

\$175 Single Attendee
\$150 For multiple attendees from same practice.

Questions?
Call 916-454-9884
or email admin@coa.org

REGISTER TODAY!

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OrthoPAC recaps election efforts, predictions, and key races



AAOS

The AAOS Orthopaedic PAC (OrthoPAC) has been actively working to elect and re-elect orthopaedic surgeon friendly-candidates to Congress. With the 2018 midterm elections just one week away, OrthoPAC wants to provide a recap of its efforts to support our legislative efforts and access to key lawmakers. Health care is the number one policy issue this election cycle, and the results of the election will have a significant impact on the future of the health care delivery system. Below is a summary of OrthoPAC's 2018 cycle work, election predictions, key races we are following, and essential resources to help you prepare for election day. [READ MORE](#)

MDGuidelines releases new and updated content



MDGuidelines

We're pleased to announce that on Saturday, October 27th we will be introducing enhancements to MDGuidelines that build on our reputation for having the most accurate and complete clinical content in the field. Some of the highlights of this content release include:

- 150 updated illness and injury topics
- 200 new or updated duration tables that provide return-to health timeframe estimates
- Minor enhancements to illustrations, topic names, rehabilitation tables, and associated medical codes

This updated content set is being made available to all MDGuidelines users at no additional cost, as part of the standard MDGuidelines subscription. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

Recent efforts to stem the opioid epidemic: Enough to move the needle?



WorkCompWire

The most recent statistic from the National Institute of Drug Abuse highlights the gravity of the opioid crisis: drug overdoses in the United States rose to 72,000 in 2017. Of those overdoses, nearly 49,000 were associated with opioids, whether synthetic or natural. In response, many states moved to enact new legislation related to the prescribing of opioids, the House and Senate passed an omnibus opioid bill and the DEA proposed a reduction in the opioid manufacturing quota for 2019. Are these steps enough to make a dent in the increasingly concerning epidemic affecting the United States? Let's examine the ways in which the CDC, state and federal governments, employers and insurers are working to combat the opioid crisis. [READ MORE](#)

COA Report

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