

COA REPORT



A publication of the California Orthopaedic Association

Winter, 2016

In this issue

Breaking News

President-Elect Trump Picks U.S. Representative and Orthopaedic Surgeon Tom Price (GA) to lead the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Dr. Price has been a long-time opponent of government taking over health care. He was so adamant that health care was headed in the wrong direction that he has sponsored legislation which would have allowed patients to opt out of Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, and Veterans Affairs benefits and purchase a private health plan using refundable tax credits, expanded the use of health savings accounts, allowed the sale of health insurance across state lines, grants for high-risk insurance pools, and federal tort reform.

Dr. Price will need Senate confirmation.

COA Updates It's Orthopaedic On-Call Decision Tree

Thanks to COA members, Navid Ziran, M.D., Jeffrey Smith, M.D., and Marc Trzeciak, M.D. for their work in updating the COA On-Call Decision Tree. First developed in 2010, the Decision Tree has assisted orthopaedic surgeons in their decision-making as to when it may be appropriate to refer a trauma patient to an orthopaedic traumatologist for a higher level of care. The On-Call Decision Tree is available here: <http://coa.org/docs/publications/ON-CALLORTHOGuidelinesFinal.pdf>

AAOS Now, October, 2016

Don't be Intimidated by ICD-10-CM Changes

The 2,000 new ICD-10-CM (International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, Clinical Modification) codes that went into effect October 1, 2016, should not send you into a panic. The changes, when analyzed and approached systematically, are not overwhelming.

This article addresses changes in the musculoskeletal and injury chapters that affect orthopaedics. It does not cover editorial changes, additional punctuation, and codes not typically used by orthopaedic surgeons. Keep this article handy while examining the entire list of code changes in these two chapters. The online version of this article links to the 2017 changes. Choose the option #2017 Addendum," then "tabular addenda."

To read the entire article: <http://www.coa.org/docs/publications/ICD10CMChangesCOA.pdf>

AAOS Now, November, 2016

2017 Spine CPT Code Changes

Spine surgeons face a multitude of CPT code changes effective January 1, 2017. This article provides a summary of these changes so practices can get a head start on understanding their implications. A complete listing of changes can be found in the 2017 CPT manual. To read the entire article: <http://www.coa.org/docs/publications/2017SpineCPTCodeChangesCOA.pdf>

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AAOS Now, November, 2016

**CJR and Orthopaedic Bundled Payments:
The Future is Now**

After many years of designing, testing, and evolving, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) appears committed to transitioning from fee-for-service to bundled payments for several episodes of care. By mandating participation in the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) program and proposing more mandatory programs, CMS is sending physicians a message that bundled payments are here to stay.

To read the entire article: <http://www.coa.org/docs/publications/CJROrthopaedicBundledPayments.pdf>

AAOS Advocacy Now, November, 2016

**CMS Publishes Final Rule—2017 Payment Rates and Rules under the ASC and Hospital OPPTS
Payment System**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized payment rates and policy changes for 2017 under the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Payment System and the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS). The agency estimates that the updates will increase ASC rates by 1.9% and OPPS payments by 1.7% during 2017. CMS left total knee arthroplasty (TKA) on the list of procedures that can only be performed on an inpatient basis. COA will continue to urge CMS to reconsider this decision, so that patients who are appropriate candidates to have their surgery performed in an ASC setting, will be allowed to do so. To read the entire article: <http://www.coa.org/docs/publications/AAOSAdvocacyNow.pdf>



**COA’s 2017 Annual Meeting/QME Course
C-Bones 2017 Annual Meeting**

Resident Forum

May 18—21, 2017

OMNI La Costa Resort & Spa—North San Diego County

The hotel is already accepting reservations.

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