



July 8, 2019



Ortho News This Week

Anthem Blue Cross makes more contract changes



Anthem Blue Cross

Be on the lookout for another letter from Anthem Blue Cross announcing contract changes for their PPO providers. Currently, providers have one year to bill a claim for a PPO patient (90 days for HMO patients). Anthem is changing this to only 90 days from the date of service for PPO patients.. If you do not submit your claim within 90 days, Anthem will deem the claim as being submitted untimely and they will refuse payment.

The letter announcing this change is dated June 21, 2019. **It was not sent by certified mail, so can be easily overlooked in your office.** The letter gives an example that states for PPO patients seen on or after July 5, 2019, you will have to submit the bill within 90 days to be paid. In addition, the letter requires you to respond to a request for more information either within the 90 days or within 60 days of the request for more information.

COA is working with CMA Legal Counsel to investigate whether this notice meets California law and gives providers the required notice prior to implementation. We will update you if there is a change to the Anthem Blue Cross implementation date.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the Anthem Blue Cross letter.



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HIPAA: OCR releases new FAQs clarifying disclosures amongst covered entities



Foley & Lardner LLP

On June 26, 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued two new FAQs that clarify:

1. The parameters around covered entities sharing protected health information (PHI) for a recipient covered entity's health care operations; and
2. That once a covered entity receives PHI under HIPAA, the recipient covered entity may use and disclose it without individual authorization in any way permitted by HIPAA (even if different than the reason the covered entity initially received the PHI).

These FAQs, although focused on health plans, clarify for all covered entities the types of disclosures of PHI that are permitted for a recipient covered entity's health care operations and that a covered entity is not restricted by HIPAA to only using and disclosing PHI for the purpose it was initially received. [READ MORE](#)

PRODUCT SHOWCASE



The Danger of Relying on Others to Review Meds Before Surgery

Hospitals and surgery centers operate with a number of individuals **taking responsibility for a variety of tasks**. A surgeon's reliance on others, however, for the pre-surgery review of medications can expose a patient to catastrophic injury. In this medical malpractice case study, CAP's General Counsel Gordon Ownby analyzes what happens when an interventional pain management specialist relies on others to provide information on a patient before a surgical procedure. [Read more.](#)

Physicians' well-being linked to in-basket messages generated by algorithms in electronic health records



Health Affairs

Despite concerns about physicians' workload associated with electronic health records (EHRs), little attention has been paid to the relationship between physicians' well-being and the in-basket messages physicians receive — specifically, their volume and sources. Receiving more than the average number of system-generated in-basket messages was associated with 40 percent higher probability of burnout and 38 percent higher probability of intending to reduce clinical work time. [READ MORE](#)

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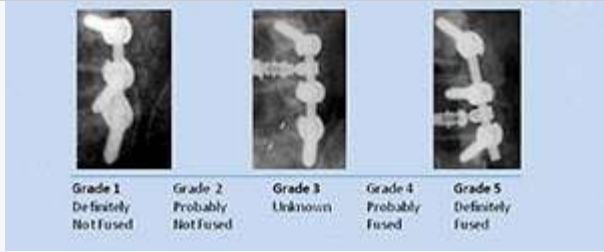
Surgeons should educate each other on the hip-spine connection



Healio

The belief that the spine moves independently of the pelvis and hip has been disproved in recent years as researchers repeatedly identified important connections between the alignment of the spinal column and the position of the pelvis. As a result, the treatment of patients with hip-spine pathology is now headed in a new direction, according to orthopedic surgeons interviewed for this story. [READ MORE](#)

PRODUCT SHOWCASE



Grade 1
Definitely
Not Fused

Grade 2
Probably
Not Fused

Grade 3
Unknown

Grade 4
Probably
Fused

Grade 5
Definitely
Fused

Rare Head-To-Head Comparison of Two Bone Grafts

Two bone graft extenders differing in chemical composition were implanted contralaterally in 27 consecutive patients undergoing instrumented posterolateral lumbar fusion. It was hypothesized that differences in biomaterial composition may reveal differences in the rate at which new bone was formed.

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