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April 3, 2020



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COVID-19 Guidance

As Your Hospital Ramps Up to Deal with an Increase in COVID-19 Patients, How can Orthopaedic Surgeons/Orthopaedic Residents Help?



California Orthopaedic Association

1. Remove all musculoskeletal patients from the Emergency Room and out of the Urgent Care Centers, so health care professionals in the ER and UCC can focus on sick COVID-19 patients.
2. Encourage local orthopaedic surgeons to handle "cold trauma" musculoskeletal patients in their offices.
3. Encourage the use of telehealth visits to keep otherwise healthy patients out of the "hot" zone.
4. Help develop screening algorithms for primary care patients.
5. Help screen Primary Care patients over the phone for symptoms - dry coughs, fever, etc.
6. Take the patient's temperature as they arrive in the office, should an in-person visit be required.
7. In worst case, plan to participate as rounding doctors similar to a resident capacity under supervision of a chief resident to help cover during the height of the surge of COVID-19 patients.
8. Older physicians or physicians with other co-morbidities may want to limit their involvement to screening patients (taking histories) over the phone.
9. Stay in touch with patients waiting for their surgeries that need to be scheduled after the COVID-19 virus has subsided. Develop a schedule of Level 1 patients – most critical to have their surgery performed to Level 4 patients who are able to wait longer. Have a plan in place once the ban on elective surgeries have lifted to know whether your patients' needs have become more urgent.
10. Communicate often and clearly with your staff what is happening with the practice.
11. [Help your patients understand how wearing masks can be helpful](#)
12. [Volunteer to participate in California's Health Corp](#) **Additional Information:** [Governor's Order](#)

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act



AAOS

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act is the third COVID-19 relief-related package that was considered by Congress and signed into law by President Trump. [Click here](#) to see the provisions of the legislation most relevant to orthopaedic surgeons and their patients.

Additional Information: [COVID-19 Legislative Packages](#)

Additional Information: [Approved 1135 Waivers for COVID-19](#)

COA will be hosting a complimentary webinar on the "**Financial Relief for Orthopaedic Practices under the CARES Act – COVID-19 Emergency**" unique to orthopaedic surgeons. You will receive notice of this webinar early next week. Chris Bell of Moss and Adams will be the featured speaker. Moss and Adams is a leading CPA firm that provides financial and tax advice to physicians throughout California.

CMS Makes Major Changes to Telehealth



KarenZupko & Associates, Inc.

For dates of service on or after March 1, 2020, CMS has temporarily relaxed many regulations around providing telehealth care for patients. They have added over 80 codes which include, but not limited to, the following **NEWLY ADDED** categories pertinent to surgical practices. [READ MORE](#)

The Small Business Owners Guide to the CARES Act Final



U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship

The programs and initiatives in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that was just passed by Congress are intended to assist business owners with whatever needs they have right now. When implemented, there will be many new resources available for small businesses, as well as certain nonprofits and other employers. This guide provides information about the major programs and initiatives that will soon be available from the Small Business Administration (SBA) to address these needs, as well as some additional tax provisions that are outside the scope of SBA.

[READ MORE](#)

Additional Information: [CARES Flow Chart](#)

Retired surgeons who previously had medical malpractice insurance with The Doctors' Company: You need to read this



The Doctors Company

As U.S. healthcare systems are being tested to the limit during the COVID-19 pandemic, The Doctors Company has announced that it will provide free medical professional liability coverage to retired physicians formerly insured by the company who volunteer during the crisis. [READ MORE](#)

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Present

**Adapting Your Practice During
the COVID-19 Crisis:**

**Telemedicine and
Patient Self-Examination
in Orthopedics**

[Watch the Webinar](#)

DEA okays telehealth to prescribe opioids amid COVID-19 emergency

mHealth Intelligence

Telemedicine has found yet another key purpose during the coronavirus public health emergency: the prescribing of controlled substances, such as opioids. Per new clarification from the US Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), healthcare professionals can now prescribe a controlled substance to a patient using telehealth technology. [READ MORE](#)

How a 15,000-year-old human bone could help you through the corona crisis

Forbes

Years ago, the anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about clay pots, tools for hunting, grinding-stones, or religious artifacts. But no. Mead said that the first evidence of civilization was a 15,000 years old fractured femur found in an archaeological site. A femur is the longest bone in the body, linking hip to knee. In societies without the benefits of modern medicine, it takes about six weeks of rest for a fractured femur to heal. This particular bone had been broken and had healed. A broken femur that has healed is evidence that another person has taken time to stay with the fallen, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended them through recovery. [READ MORE](#)

Accelerated/Advance Payments for Medicare Providers

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

On March 28, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced an expansion of its accelerated and advance payment program for Medicare participating health care providers and suppliers, to ensure they have the resources needed to combat the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This program expansion, which includes changes from the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, is one way that CMS is working to lessen the financial hardships of providers facing extraordinary challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensures the nation's providers can focus on patient care. [READ MORE](#)

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