



Events



NCOA

White Coat Wednesday

Feb. 25
Raleigh, N.C.

AAOS 2015

National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference

April 29 – May 2
Washington, D.C.

AAOS 2015

Annual Meeting

March 24-28
Las Vegas, Nev.

NCOA 2015

Annual Meeting

Oct. 9-11
Kiawah Island, S.C.

Renew Your Membership => [Win Cool Tech Gear](#) => [Learn More Here](#)

Medicaid, CSC Still Not Ready to Implement Rate Cuts Now One Year Overdue

Medicaid rate cuts that could total 4 percent continue to linger as Medicaid and CSC continue to kick the can down the road going into the New Year. Back in 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a 2014 Medicaid rate cut of 3 percent that has not yet been implemented and a 1 percent cut for 2015. With just days left in 2014, Medicaid and CSC still aren't able to report when either cut will be implemented.

In a hard-hitting news story about the continued uncertainty and risk surrounding these cuts, the North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) presents a strong argument for outright repeal of both the 3 percent retroactive cut and the 1 percent prospective cut. "The harm these accumulated reductions will do to our strong network of Medicaid providers must be prevented." [Read the full article here.](#)

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PQRS Penalties

There may still be time to avoid a 2 percent Medicare penalty in 2016 based on services provided in 2014. Eligible providers must **report on at least 3 measures** in 2014, for at least 50 percent of the applicable population to avoid the penalty. If you work with a registry, the 2014 PQRS data submission window will be in the first quarter of 2015. For EHR reporting, the data submission deadline is Feb. 28, 2015.

For additional guidance, [contact us by email](#) or call 919-833-3836.



NCOA 2014 Annual Meeting Awakens the Halloween Spirit in the Young and the Young at Heart

The NCOA 2014 Annual Meeting, held Oct. 31-Nov. 2, in Asheville, was an enjoyable weekend for adults and children alike. The meeting drew more than 100 physicians, students and allied health professionals, and 36 companies exhibited at the conference. The Southern Regional AHEC designated this live activity for up to 5.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*TM for educational sessions covering clinical topics such as orthopaedic management of **osteoporosis**, **arthroplasty** in the outpatient setting, ultrasound-guided **carpal tunnel injection**, the safety of combined hip arthroscopy and **periacetabular osteotomy**, among many others. In addition to the meeting program and activities, attendees experienced both beautiful fall foliage and the first snow of the season!

Everyone enjoyed a family-friendly Halloween party in the exhibit hall on Friday, Oct. 31, complete with trick-or-treating, a costume contest and face painting. Life-long memories were made thanks to the extra effort of **Mrs. Kelly Bolognesi** and the Bolognesi children in planning the children's activities.



James A. Nunley, II, MD, MS was presented with the Honored Surgeon Award during the Awards Banquet on Saturday, Nov. 1. He was surprised and delighted when his family arrived to join in the celebration.



Additional social events included a Biltmore Estate & Winery tour and an impromptu beer tasting tour on Saturday afternoon. A planned golf tournament was cancelled due to snow!



NCOA Annual Business Meeting Held Oct. 31 in Asheville

- Dr. Michael Bolognesi, NCOA President (2013-2014), presented the various opportunities for members to support NCOA advocacy activities, including support of the NCOA PAC, meeting locally with legislators and participating in White Coat Wednesday events.
- An update on AAOS activities and issues was presented by Ed Lilly, MD and Richard Bruch, MD. Items mentioned included the changing payment landscape, SGR repeal, the Sunshine Act, ACA update and opioid abuse.
- A report on the development of an ACO Toolkit for orthopaedic surgery was presented by Richard Bruch, MD. The toolkit is being developed in conjunction with the NCMS Foundation. NCOA members participating in the initiative include Bruch, Chad Mather, MD, Tom Dimmig, MD, Leo Spector, MD and Mike Lucas, MD. The toolkit is nearly complete and will be available soon.
- A Historian's report was provided by Charles Classen, MD. A moment of silence was observed for the following orthopaedic physicians that passed away in 2014: James Dineen, MD, Hobart Rogers, MD, Robert Lincoln, MD, John Tayloe, MD and George Miller, MD.
- The 2015 Annual Meeting was confirmed for Oct. 9-11, 2015, in Kiawah Island, S.C. The 2016 Annual Meeting was confirmed for Oct. 7-9 in Pinehurst, N.C.
- The nominees for the 2014-2015 NCOA Executive Committee were presented and approved.

Please join us in welcoming the 2014-2015 NCOA Board of Directors.

- **President:** Julian M. "Mack" Aldridge, III, MD (Durham)
pictured with his wife, Elizabeth ----->
- **President-Elect:** Matthew D. Olin, MD (Greensboro)
- **Vice President:** Peter G. Mangone, MD (Asheville)
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Richard C. "Chad" Mather, III, MD (Durham)
- **Recording Secretary:** Shawn B. Hocker, MD (Wilmington)
- **Historian:** Charles H. Classen, Jr., MD (Kinston)
- **Immediate Past President:** Michael P. Bolognesi, MD (Durham)
- **Councilor to AAOS:** Frank V. Aluisio, MD (Greensboro)
- **Councilor to AAOS:** Richard Bruch, MD (Durham)
- **Councilor to AAOS:** Edward G. Lilly, III, MD (Hendersonville)



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Are you interested in contributing your time and talents to the NCOA? You're in luck! We have several volunteer opportunities available. Email us at ncoa@ncmedsoc.org.

1. Regional Membership Ambassador
2. Legislative Advocate & Key Contact
3. NCOA PAC Advisor
4. *And more!*

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The NCOA Executive Committee is pleased to present the **2014-2015 NCOA Leadership Team**. We look forward to the participation of these emerging leaders and their contributions to our NCOA community.

- Jessica A. Woodcock, MD (Kinston)
- W. Dickson Schaefer, MD (Fayetteville)
- Bryan D. Springer, MD (Charlotte)
- Michael T. Freehill, MD (Winston-Salem)
- Cynthia L. Emory, MD (Winston-Salem)

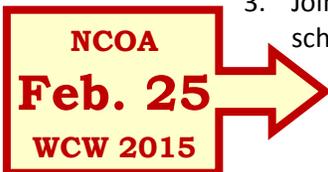
NCGA Returns Jan. 14, CON Reform and Medicaid Reform Efforts Continue

The NCOA is gearing up to advance legislation reforming the state's antiquated and inequitable Certificate of Need (CON) laws in 2015. NCOA lobbyist Connie Wilson reports, "There is strong growing support for reducing regulations on health care and we are meeting with legislators right now in preparation for the long session when the legislature reconvenes on Jan. 14." Not only is CON going to be debated, but Medicaid reform will continue to be discussed. A lack of consensus after months of study will make it a contentious issue between the chambers and the Governor. Still being debated are: 1) ACOs vs. MCOs, 2) whether Medicaid should be spun off from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services and 3) providers' financial risk. The Dec. 2, 2014, report from the Subcommittee on Medicaid Reform/Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) Reorganization is available [here](#).

This will be a critical session for legislation impacting physicians and their patients, which is why your involvement is so important. Here are three ways you can help the NCOA get a head start in preparing for the 2015 legislative session:

"There is strong growing support..."
-Connie Wilson, NCOA Lobbyist

1. **Save \$25 by renewing your NCOA membership before March 31.** The NCOA membership year runs Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Get the discounted early rate at www.ncorthopaedics.org.
2. **Discuss Medicaid reform and the positive impact Certificate of Need reform will have on patient care and health care costs with your local representative or senator.** We're here to help! If you would like assistance coordinating or preparing for a meeting, please contact us at 919-833-3836 or ncoa@ncmedsoc.org.
3. Join us for the **NCOA White Coat Wednesday on Feb. 25, 2015**, in Raleigh. The event schedule typically runs from 8:00 to 12:30 pm.
 - a. 8:00am – Legislative Briefing at the NCMS Building
 - b. 9:00am to 11:30am – Meet with your elected officials and attend legislative committee meetings at the Legislative Buildings
 - c. 11:30am to 12:30pm – Debriefing and lunch



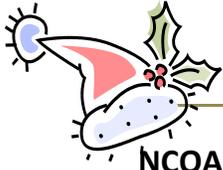
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Medical Board Approves Revised Telemedicine, Prescribing Position Statements

At its November meeting, the N.C. Medical Board approved revisions to two position statements related to the practice of telemedicine. The Board revised draft versions of its "Telemedicine" and "Contact with patients before prescribing" position statements after considering feedback from the public and from stakeholders.

- [Access a "track changes" version of the Telemedicine position statement](#), including comments that describe the Board's rationale for final revisions.
- [Access the Telemedicine position statement](#)
- [Access the Contact with patients before prescribing position statement](#)

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NCOA PAC Report: A Near Perfect Score

The NCOA PAC is batting a .970 coming out of the 2014 General Election in which 34 of 35 supported candidates won their races in November.

Going into the elections, the NCOA strategy was to focus intently on a short list of incumbents who would be critical to advancing NCOA's legislative priorities in the upcoming 2015 long session. This success is really good news for our orthopaedic community, and sends the message that NCOA members are committed to affecting change.

Thank you, 2014 NCOA PAC supporters!

2014 NCOA PAC Heroes:

Triangle Orthopaedic Associates PAC

Frank V. Aluisio, MD

Jeffrey C. Beane, MD

Richard F. Bruch, MD

R. Andrew Collins, MD

Ronald A. Gioffre, MD

William M. Gramig, III, MD

Steven R. Norris, MD

Matthew D. Olin, MD

Fred W. Ortmann, IV, MD

Kevin M. Supple, MD

2014 NCOA PAC Champions

J. McClees Aldridge, III, MD

Michael P. Bolognesi, MD

Richard C. Mather, III, MD

James A. Nunley, II, MD, MS

William P. Silver, MD

Jessica A. Woodcock, MD

2014 NCOA PAC Friends

Edward G. Lilly, III, MD

William H. Satterfield, MD

2014 NCOA PAC Donors

Charles H. Classen, Jr., MD

Denna L. Suko, MA

H. Clayton Thomason, III, MD

IC Proposes Long-Anticipated Revisions to Physician Fee Schedule

The N.C. Industrial Commission has proposed the first workers' compensation fee schedule update in nearly 20 years. Based on an early analysis, the proposal will drastically improve North Carolina's standing in terms of how the workers' compensation system values physician participation. Currently, we rank 41st among the 43 states that have adopted fee schedules. The new rates will vault North Carolina up to the national average, and near the top in the southeast. If approved as proposed, payment rates will be based on Medicare and updated annually. The proposal was published last month in the [North Carolina Register](#).

Here are some key services of interest to orthopaedics:

- E&M services will be set at 140 percent of Medicare. (CPT 99214: currently \$103.13, **proposed \$144.59**)
- Physical medicine services will be set at 140 percent of Medicare. (CPT 97110: currently \$36.45, **proposed \$43.44**)
- Major surgical procedures will be set at 195 percent of Medicare, resulting in both increases and decreases depending on the procedure.

The NCOA was represented on a North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) Task Force formed to study workers' comp payment rates and to make recommendations to the Industrial Commission. Many of the Task Force's recommendations have been incorporated into this proposal. Please note that the proposed rule is just the first step in a long rulemaking process, and the NCOA cautions that this update is far from a done deal. The proposed rule is now being analyzed by the NCMS and NCOA.

Both NCOA and NCMS are interested in hearing your reactions to the proposed workers' comp fee schedule. Please share your feedback by email to ncoa@ncmedsoc.org.

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Orthopaedic Specialists of Brunswick County to Join OrthoWilmington

Combining with Orthopaedic Specialists will bring OrthoWilmington to 23 physicians, 17 physician assistants, and three nurse practitioners. It will also add seven offices in the five towns of Southport, Leland, Supply, Sunset Beach and Carolina Beach to OrthoWilmington's six area locations in New Hanover, Brunswick and Onslow counties. [Read more online.](#)

Does your practice have news to share?
Email us at ncoa@ncmedsoc.org.

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Wilmington Health: Health Care Reform “In the Trenches”

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Governor Pat McCrory and Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services **Aldona Wos, MD**, visited Wilmington Health this past summer as part of their statewide tour of accountable care organizations (ACOs). The McCrory administration supports Medicaid reform that incorporates accountable or value-based care, and the visiting officials wanted to learn how this emerging model works on the ground and in the trenches. ... [Continue reading this article online.](#)

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Consulting Opportunities with N.C.-based Physician Re-entry Program

The [Center for Personalized Education for Physicians](#) (CPEP), a non-profit group that assists physicians in the process of reentering clinical practice after a prolonged absence as well as providing general competence assessment and remedial education services, is recruiting N.C. physicians from various specialties to serve as occasional consultants and associate medical directors (AMDs). Consulting physicians conduct structured clinical interviews with participants in order to gain insight into their experience, thought processes and clinical judgment. AMDs oversee the interview process and are responsible for the final assessment reports. While these positions come with stipends, consultants and AMDs are more frequently motivated by a desire to give back to both their profession and their community. We invite you to learn more about the available [consultant](#) and [AMD](#) opportunities.

The NCOA encourages you to support CPEP and the valuable service it provides our physician community. For more information, please contact Bill O’Neill at boneill@cpepdoc.org or 919-238-6436.

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NCOA Joins N.C. Coalition to Protect Patients

The NCOA and more than a dozen organizations that represent physicians in the state have banded together in the [North Carolina Coalition to Protect Patients](#) (NCCPP), a statewide organization dedicated to promoting physician leadership of health care teams as the cornerstone of patient safety in North Carolina. NCCPP supports our NCOA advocacy efforts by informing policy-makers and opinion-shapers through a targeted media and educational campaign. The NCCPP website, www.protectNCpatients.com, is a resource for up-to-date patient safety legislation being considered in N.C., as well as headlines and commentary on patient safety issues that are important to our specialty.

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2014 NCMS Legislative Summary Now Available

The NCMS announces the availability of its [2014 Legislative Summary](#). The document features a complete summary on the key legislative issues that NCMS was engaged on during the 2014 “short session” of the N.C. General Assembly.

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Power Mobility Device Advice

A new [Medicare Minute video](#) explains the requirements for prescribing power mobility devices.

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Happy Holidays From Your NCOA Staff



W. Alan Skipper, CAE, Executive Director
Denna L. Suko, MA, Deputy Director
Nancy Lowe, CMP, Associate Director
Evan Simmons, Coordinator
Marissa Gallo, Coordinator

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