To stay independent, physicians turn to ACOs

Modern Healthcare
For Dr. Pablo Quintela, the decision to join an accountable care organization was an easy one. Orange Care Group, formed in 2014 under the Medicare Shared Savings Program, provides Quintela with support services to manage his small practice in Hollywood, Florida, through one of its four ACOs. It helps him correctly bill claims to the CMS, coordinate care for his Medicare population and prepare for the quality requirements of MACRA through educational sessions and tools. READ MORE

Hospitals keep up swift pace of mergers, alliances

The Pulse
The new year is bringing a rash of big hospital deals in Georgia, as health systems look to bulk up in size and add to their medical territory. The first transaction came a week ago, with the completion of Tennessee-based HCA’s acquisition of Memorial Health in Savannah. Still pending are three other major combinations. READ MORE

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10 tips for complying with Georgia's telemedicine laws

Health Care Law Today
On Jan. 22, 2018, the Georgia House of Representatives adopted a Resolution recognizing telehealth as an important tool to improving access to healthcare in Georgia. One week later, the Georgia Senate recognized Jan. 30, 2018, as Telehealth Day at the State Capitol. The Peach State clearly remains an enthusiastic pioneer in its use of telemedicine as a means of delivering healthcare. This article is educational and not intended as legal advice. Practitioners should be watchful for changes in the law and interpretations in this emerging field. Here are 10 tips when to consider when providing telemedicine services in Georgia. READ MORE

Why was this year's flu shot so weak? FDA wants to know

HealthDay News
With a nasty flu season still raging, it didn't help that this year's influenza vaccine was just 25 percent effective against H3N2, the dominant strain. So the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is bent on making sure next year's flu shot works better, agency commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said in a statement released Monday. READ MORE
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