



Florida Orthopaedic Society Medical Economics Committee Monthly Practice Management Tip



April 2004

CAUTION URGED CONCERNING THE REIMPORTATION OF INJECTIBLES

The Florida Orthopaedic Society has been notified that companies that specialize in the reimportation of pharmaceuticals from Canada are soliciting a number of orthopaedic practices across the state. The solicitations indicate that the practice may benefit from savings by securing these medicines from Canada for use on their patients. The FOS Executive Committee is extremely concerned about these solicitations and the potential liability that FOS members may be exposed to if they engage in such an arrangement. While the FOS does not have a position on the wider issues involved in this debate, we are concerned that our members may unwittingly open themselves up to serious liability by engaging in such an arrangement. Until the federal government can address this issue again, the Food & Drug Administration has made their position clear that reimported drugs do not go through the same oversight and packaging requirements as drugs produced for US consumption and therefore are not safe for use in the United States. There is an obvious difference between a patient making a conscious decision to take a prescription and fill it through a Canadian pharmacy versus a practice importing drugs for use on their patients. Given the apparent volume of solicitations from these companies, the FOS Executive Committee wanted to bring these potential issues to your attention. It is our hope that the FDA and Congress will address this issue in a timely manner.

BONES Society Annual Conference-May 23-26 in Miami – Wonderful Opportunity for Florida Practices

The FOS wanted to bring to your attention a unique opportunity for orthopaedic practices in our state. The National Bones Conference is being held at the end of May in Miami. This represents a great opportunity for orthopaedic staff members and surgeons to receive training and education on a myriad of practice management issues.

The BONES Society, an organization of orthopaedic practice managers, will hold its Annual Conference May 23-26, 2004 in Miami. The Annual Conference provides educational courses that cover human resources, financial, strategic, and governance challenges, coding, and much more. Special networking opportunities are held throughout the conference. There will also be more than 100 orthopaedic exhibitors. If your practice manager is an integral part of your success, he or she should attend.

As a special bonus, there will be a pre-conference coding workshop specially priced at \$225 on Sunday, May 23 through KarenZupko Associates. For more information, call the BONES Society office at 800-247-9699, or go to:

<http://www.bonessociety.org>

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