

Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

medical liability, CON, substance abuse, and mental health, to name only a few. To review some of the [State Advocacy website](#). To read the State-mENT, [click here!](#)

### **New Position Statement: Vaccination Status and Obligation to Provide Care**

On January 15, the AAO-HNS Board of Directors approved a [new Position Statement](#) that reaffirms the professional obligation to provide medically indicated care to all patients. They should not use vaccination status as a prerequisite to offer services except in exceptional circumstances. We all have a collective obligation to educate and encourage appropriate best public health practices and evidence-based infection control.

### **AAO-HNS Advocacy Leads to ETBD Coding Updates**

On January 1, the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) revised or deleted a number of edits related to eustachian tube balloon dilation (ETBD). NCCI was created by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to control improper coding that would lead to inappropriate Medicare payments. Previously, NCCI had stated that these were bundled procedures, but following targeted Academy [advocacy efforts](#) NCCI updated their guidance to allow CPT codes 69705 and 69706 to use modifier 59 and bill CPT codes 30801, 30802, 31233-31298, 31510-31546, and 31560-31570 as separate procedures because they are different disease processes. NCCI did not remove all the instances where modifiers may not be used, and examples of procedures that cannot be billed with ETBD include, 31231, 92511, 92502, and 69990.

### **Dr. Robert Califf Confirmed as FDA Commissioner**

The U.S. Senate [approved](#) the confirmation of Robert Califf, MD, as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in a narrow 50-

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