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HPR Insurance Services



Healthcare Provider Resources, Inc.

Medical Malpractice and Managed Care News Digest

August, 2010

Welcome to the HPR Insurance Services newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to bring you a summary of medical malpractice and managed care news that we hope will be timely, relevant and in a format you can easily use.

Quick Links...

[Grants to aid projects on improving patient safety, curbing malpractice suits](#)

Washington Post

The Obama administration has awarded \$23.2 million in grants to local government agencies and medical providers in 16 states for projects intended to improve patient safety and curb medical malpractice suits, officials announced Friday...

[Imaging-Related Malpractice: View from a Plaintiff's Attorney](#)

Renal and Urology News

Most of the medical malpractice cases involving imaging tests that I encounter deal with a failure to order tests, as seen in my earlier example. However, I also encounter a fair number of medical malpractice cases that involve a misread of the radiographic studies. Both of these types of mistakes often lead to a significant delay in a proper diagnosis...

[Performance Reviews by the Numbers](#)

Wall Street Journal

But three years ago her hospital implemented a new computer-based performance system that broke her job description down into quantifiable goals such as to keep infection rates for her unit low and patient-satisfaction scores high. When review time came, the discussion didn't dwell on how she had performed-either she had hit the goals, or she hadn't...

[Medical Malpractice or Simple Negligence?](#)

The Injury Board

In 2007, Valerija Milosevic of Michigan had been recovering from a heart attack at the hospital when she fell out of bed and suffered facial fractures and a deep cut over her eye. To treat the cut, a hospital resident used a device called a thermal cautery...

[Nursing home firm hit with \\$670-million judgment](#)

Los Angeles Times

Nursing home operator Skilled Healthcare Group Inc. was ordered Tuesday to pay more than \$670 million in damages for understaffing at its 22 assisted-living facilities in California...

[Washington State Supreme Court strikes down malpractice reform](#)

The Clinical Advisor

The first time was in the fall of 2009, when the court struck down a law requiring a certificate of merit from a medical expert before suing for medical malpractice. The court held that the law violated "both the separation of powers and the right of access to courts." This month, the court struck down the requirement that providers be given a 90-day notice before a medical malpractice suit could be filed...

[Defensive medicine to avoid liability lawsuits is widespread](#)

American Medical News

About nine in 10 physicians said doctors order more tests and procedures than patients need so they can protect themselves against lawsuits, according to a study in the June 28 *Archives of Internal Medicine*...

[Study Questions Use of Paid Medical Expert Witnesses in Malpractice Cases](#)

NewWise.com

"Our study shows that a new paradigm for determination of standard of care in malpractice cases is required, in order to stem the tide of increasing overuse of tests and to minimize the perceived risks of litigation among physicians,"

[Healthcare Reform, Mid-Level Providers, and Liability Risk](#)

PhysiciansNews

In recent years, physicians have increasingly been relying on mid-level support to manage increased patient flow and needs. When proper mechanisms are in place, mid-levels can help to improve patient satisfaction, efficacies, and quality of care. However, when appropriate supervising and collaborative measures are not in place, or are not followed, patient care can be negatively impacted and physician liability exposure...

[Berwick Takes Reins at CMS, But Reign Might Be Short](#)

California Healthline

While physician supply has increased in recent years, **California** as a whole barely meets the national recommended minimum range. And future demand is expected to outpace supply due to a confluence of factors...

[Nine More Hospitals Fined \\$550,000 for Putting Patients at Risk](#)

Health Leaders Media

A physician who lacked privileges to perform nephrectomies took out the wrong kidney at a Riverside hospital. A newborn required intubation after receiving IV morphine sulfate intended for the mother in Mission Viejo. And a gero-psychiatric patient suffered a brain bleed and died after his recliner, which lacked crossbars, fell backwards in Poway...

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