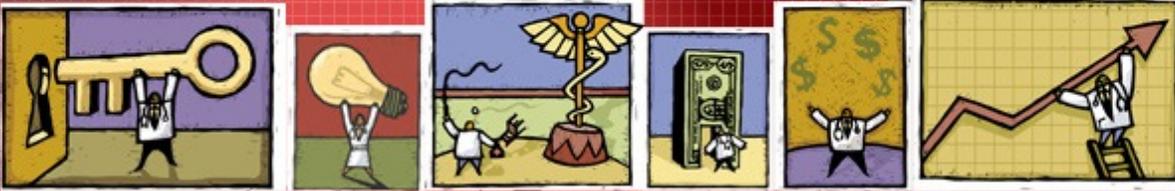


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## HPR Insurance Services



### Healthcare Provider Resources, Inc.

Medical Malpractice and Managed Care News Digest  
January, 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...

#### [Outpatient Palliative Care Reduces Hospitalizations](#)

##### **American Journal of Managed Care**

Based on a reduction of hospitalizations, readmissions, and emergency room visits, the Care Support of America proven algorithms of care show potential value for payers and hospitals who want to embrace an evidence-based outpatient palliative care approach...

#### [Denying malpractice can threaten patient safety](#)

##### **Fierce Healthcare**

A decade has passed since the Institutes of Medicine released "To Err is Human," a groundbreaking report that brought attention to the problem of medical errors and launched the patient safety movement. Meanwhile, the high cost of insuring against malpractice claims continues to affect physicians in their practices...

#### [Lawsuit Activity Costs May Rise 3% This Year, Study Says](#)

##### **National Underwriter**

Civil litigation costs rose only 1.1 percent in 2008, but this year the percentage may have nearly tripled, driven up by damage from the financial crisis and medical malpractice cases, a consulting firm reported...

#### [AAFP Board Adopts Principles for Accountable Care Organizations](#)

##### **American Academy of Family Physicians**

However, it's possible that a proliferation of ACOs could thrust primary care into a scenario similar to the managed care environment of the late '80s and early '90s, when primary care physicians basically became a source of referrals for hospitals and subspecialists, said Bertka...

#### [Cost estimates from hospitals hard to get](#)

##### **SFGate**

A state law, which went into effect in 2006, requires hospitals to provide, upon request, a written estimate of charges that an uninsured patient would be billed based on the service and length of stay...

#### [UCSF Medical Group, Hill Physicians complete affiliation](#)

**San Francisco Business Times**

Back in August, the 1,500-physician UCSF Medical Group and 2,600-doctor Hill Physicians said the affiliation would give roughly 20,000 HMO enrollees in San Francisco access to primary care and specialty doctors. All members of the UCSF Medical Group, composed of clinical faculty members at UCSF's School of Medicine who also practice medicine at UCSF, would become members of Hill, officials said at the time...

**[Health insurers' rescission practices are exposed to more scrutiny](#)**

**LA Times**

California's health insurance companies may have hoped that the more than \$13 million in fines they paid to regulators would put an end to the scrutiny of their practice of rescinding the policies of sick patients...

**[Surgical Quality Difficult to Assess](#)**

**Duke University**

Insurance providers face significant challenges in reliably assessing the quality of individual surgeons' patient outcomes, and need better ways to measure physician quality when selecting the best surgeons for their members...

**[California Medical Malpractice- Radiation overdoses affected over 270 patients](#)**

**JusticeNewsFlast.Com**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) <http://www.fda.gov> is currently in the process of investigating a series of medical cases in which over 270 patients were exposed to excess amounts of radiation when undergoing CT brain perfusion scans...

**[Appeals court backs judge's decision on jury remarks](#)**

**Spokane Spokesman-Review**

A Spokane judge was correct to throw out a jury verdict in a medical malpractice case after he learned jurors had made racially derogatory comments about the Japanese heritage of an attorney, the state Court of Appeals has ruled...

**[Arizona toughens burden of proof in malpractice cases](#)**

**The Clinical Advisor**

An Arizona medical malpractice reform bill, which was signed into law last summer and went into effect recently, makes it harder for patients to sue hospitals, emergency room physicians, on-call specialists, and other hospital personnel involved in providing emergency treatment...

**[Ventura County Moves Forward With Shift to Medi-Cal Managed Care](#)**

**California Healthline**

On Tuesday, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors gave preliminary approval to a plan to shift from state-run Medi-Cal services to a locally administered managed care program, the "Ventura County Times" reports. About 110,000 Ventura County residents currently are enrolled in Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program...

***HPR Insurance Services is a one-of-a-kind insurance broker working only with healthcare organizations. Our clients are physicians, medical clinics, medical groups, and hospitals. We work with a select group of clients, in order to provide them with outstanding, personalized service and unique solutions. Please see our website at <http://hprinsurance.com> for more information about us.***

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