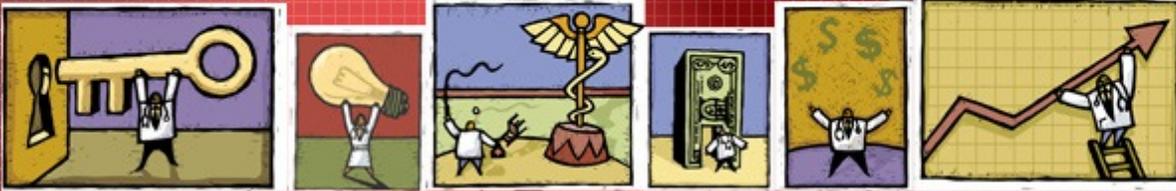


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## HPR Insurance Services



### Healthcare Provider Resources, Inc.

Medical Malpractice and Managed Care News Digest  
October, 2009

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...

#### [Medical Malpractice with Patient Controlled Analgesia Pumps](#)

##### **Best Syndication**

When problems arise in the use of PCA pumps, the consequences can be dire. It is very easy for a patient to overdose on pain medication using these devices, leading to severe injuries and possibly even wrongful death. Therefore, it is critical that health care professionals take the proper steps to ensure that an overdose does not occur...

#### [The Fix Is In - The hidden public-private cartel that sets health care prices](#)

##### **Slate**

The root of the shortage can be traced to 1985, when a Harvard economist named William Hsiao developed a scale to measure the relative value of every single one of the thousands of services provided by doctors, a job later compared to measuring "the exact amount of anger in the world." For example, Hsiao's team deemed that a hysterectomy required 3.8 times more mental effort and 4.47 times more technical skill than a psychotherapy session...

#### [State Supreme Court makes it easier to sue for malpractice](#)

##### **Seattle PI**

The state's highest court has thrown out a hurdle to the filing of medical malpractice lawsuits, finding that a state law requiring that people who want to sue produce a certificate of merit signed by a doctor violates the state constitution...

#### [DMHC Opens Final Public Comment Period on Rule To Ease HMO Wait Times](#)

##### **California Healthline**

This week, the Department of Managed Health Care is expected to open its final public comment period on proposed regulations designed to ensure that HMO members have timely access to medical services, the Riverside Press-Enterprisereports...

#### [Medical Malpractice Insurance Market Stable But Faces Challenges Ahead](#)

##### **Insurance Journal**

Recent trends have had an overall stabilizing impact on the medical malpractice market, but several emerging issues may present challenges for insurers and actuaries, attendees at the Casualty Loss Reserve Seminar were told...

[CA Legislature Passes Streamlined Rapid HIV Testing Bill; AHF Urges Schwarzenegger to Sign Common Sense Law](#)

**Reuters**

AB 221 (Portantino, D-Pasadena) Eliminates a Requirement that HIV Testing Counselors Using Finger Stick Rapid Tests be Trained as Limited Phlebotomy Technicians, a Costly and Outdated Barrier to Expanding Access to HIV Testing...

[Schwarzenegger signs legislation to re-open Healthy Families](#)

**Los Angeles Business**

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation Tuesday that will prevent more than 600,000 children from losing their health insurance and re-open the state's Healthy Families program to new enrollment...

[Autistic teen's fatal overdose blamed on hospital](#)

**Seattle PI**

For a 15-year-old, or anybody else, Michael Blankenship had already been through a lot when he arrived at Seattle Children's hospital for some routine dental work...

[Drug duo may reduce heart attacks and strokes](#)

**Los Angeles Times**

An inexpensive combination of one drug to lower cholesterol and one to lower blood pressure can reduce the incidence of heart attacks and strokes by as much as 60% -- but getting patients to begin the regimen and then to stay on it is an extremely difficult task, Kaiser Permanente researchers reported...

[Use of Federal Health Clinics Soars](#)

**Wall Street Journal**

Federally funded health centers, originally created to serve the poor, are seeing a surge of patients as more Americans struggle financially. The centers are on track to handle more than 20 million patients this year, up by more than two million from last year and twice the figure of a decade ago, according to surveys by the National Association of Community Health Centers...

[Saying sorry is best medicine for US doctors](#)

**Google**

Admitting fault and saying sorry can be hard for anyone, but for an American doctor whose medical error has killed a patient it can mean a lawsuit that ends his or her career. Doug Wojcieszak recalled the way doctors literally ran away from his mother in the hallway of the hospital after their fatal misdiagnosis of his brother Jim in 1998. "It's a cultural thing in medicine, that initial instinct to pull back and to sever the relationship with the patient or the family and clam up as a way to mitigate or reduce the chance of a lawsuit," he told AFP...

***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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