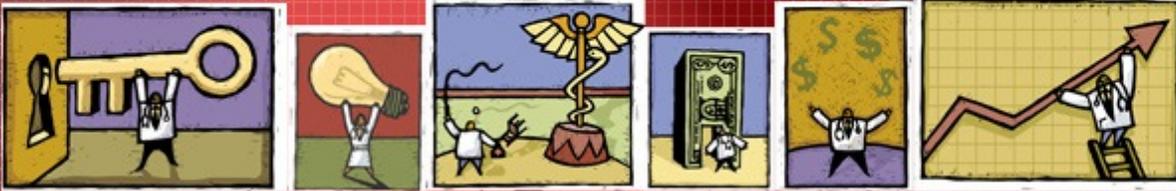


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HPR Insurance Services



Healthcare Provider Resources, Inc.

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

[Cost of Medical Malpractice Tops \\$55 Billion a Year in U.S.](#)

U.S. News and World Report

The cost of medical malpractice in the United States is \$55.6 billion a year, which is 2.4 percent of annual health-care spending, a new study shows...

[Key California Health Reform Bills](#)

California Progress Report

The California Legislature completes the final two days of the 2009-10 session, major patient protection measures that implement and improve health reform have been passed, but several other key bills are still pending for final floor votes...

[Nearly half of healthcare workers in California hospitals did not receive flu shots](#)

Los Angeles Times

The vaccination rate was less than 25% in 3.3% of the hospitals, according to data compiled by the state health department and obtained by Consumers Union through a Public Records Act request. Moreover, 31% of hospitals in the state did not report their vaccination rate to the health department despite a law requiring it...

[Patients in clinical trials get new health insurance protections](#)

Los Angeles Times

The new healthcare law will prevent such problems, beginning in 2014. The law requires health plans to pay for routine care costs for patients who participate in clinical trials for the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer and other life-threatening diseases and conditions...

[County officials want to eyeball hospital's peer reviewed cases](#)

Fiercehealthcare.com

The authors of the letter claimed the peer review related to problems at the neonatal ICU was "missing" and that doctors and staff were not meeting to discuss medical mistakes. Hospital industry officials and patient safety experts say such outside scrutiny of peer review documents could ruin the peer review process, which is designed to help doctors root out mistakes and create corrective plans to prevent them. Instead, the threat of outsiders looking in might make doctors and

staff reluctant to report mistakes...

[Research Roundup: Lowering Malpractice Costs; Advance Care Planning Limitations; Consumers Review Their Own Health Care](#)

Medical News Today

This brief (.pdf) examines the medical malpractice provisions of the health law, the Patient Protection And Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Additionally, the brief describes alternative liability and safety reforms, noting whether such approaches are eligible for PPACA demonstration grants...

[As a Result of Health Reform, California Provider Groups Focusing on Accountable Care Organizations to Better Coordinate Care](#)

PR NewsWire

According to the recent *California Health Plan Analysis*, anticipated federal use of ACOs for fee-for-service Medicare is sparking high interest among provider groups and hospitals, leading to partnership discussions. This leaves the door open for the ACO to involve a variety of structural relationships between physicians, hospitals and health plans - a movement that is likely to continue consolidation in the provider community...

[Tighter Medical Privacy Rules Sought](#)

New York Times

The rules specify when doctors, hospitals and insurers must tell patients about the improper use or disclosure of information in their medical records. Such breaches appear to have become more frequent, with the growing use of health information technology, social media and the Internet...

[When Doctors Admit Their Mistakes](#)

New York Times

But then rumors that the family was considering a lawsuit began to make the rounds. Soon afterward, administrators from risk management, the department of the hospital devoted to improving safety, began warning us not to talk about the case - not to one another, not to the news media and, most of all, not to the family...

[Los Angeles County CA Med Mal: \\$5.5M Settlement Reached Over Cheerleader Injury](#)

Justice News Flash

A \$5.5 million medical malpractice settlement over a Redondo Beach cheerleader's irreversible injuries was expected to be finalized by Los Angeles County officials Tuesday, August 17, 2010. The settlement is the largest of its kind in Los Angeles County history...

[Four ways to reduce malpractice risk](#)

Clinical Advisor

Medical malpractice is an unfortunate reality of practicing medicine in the current health-care environment, and we all want to reduce any acts of true malpractice. Here are a few ways you can reduce your overall risk of being caught in a malpractice suit...

[Will ACOs be A-OK? Model Stirs Hopes, Questions](#)

California Healthline

Many experts argue that the fee-for-service reimbursement model is a key driver of the nation's rising health care costs and care fragmentation. While lawmakers have tried for years to curb so-called unnecessary utilization, this year's health care overhaul aims to change health care provider behavior by hitting them where they'll notice: their pocketbooks...

[UCSF study finds big jump in ER visits](#)

SFGate.com

Relatively low reimbursements to physicians who care for patients on Medicaid, the federal-state health program for the poor who meet certain criteria, were believed to be a key factor behind the increase...

[Most Doctors Will Face Malpractice Suit, AMA Says](#)

ABC News

Although most of those claims are dropped or dismissed, the new survey from the AMA shows that most physicians will be sued for malpractice at some point in their careers. This works out to an average of 95 medical malpractice lawsuits having been filed for every 100 physicians now in practice, according to the association...

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