



Risk Management Filter

OPTIMA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE SERVICES

September 2025

Vol. 25, No. 9

OPTIMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar:

[“Defending Obstetric Cases:
Managing Medical and Legal Risks for the Best Outcomes”](#)

September 18, 2025 @ 10:00 – 11:00 am (Pacific Time)

[Optima 2025 Education Calendar](#)

Contact:

Kristen Hauso, Risk Management Coordinator
at 916.699.6682 or at khauso@optimahealthcare.com

ADMINISTRATION

Joint Commission Rolls Out Major Accreditation and Safety Changes (Beckers Clinical Leadership, August 5, 2025)

The Joint Commission has introduced major changes to hospital accreditation standards, updated obstetric care requirements, and shared plans to retire the “risk” icon from its programs. [Read more...](#)

The Cost of Caring: Challenges Facing America’s Hospitals in 2025 (American Hospital Association, April 2025)

America’s hospitals and health systems are the cornerstone of the nation’s health care system; however, hospitals face a perfect storm of financial pressures. [Read more...](#)

Think Like a Human Factors Engineer: Five Principles for Healthcare Leaders (ECRI Health System Risk Management, September 3, 2025)

Claims for serious patient injury arising from care provided in a hospital are likely to involve scrutiny of the hospital's credentialing and privileging processes. [Read more...](#)

CLINICAL LEADERSHIP

Hospitals Face a Catch-22 Amid Nurse Shortages (Beckers Clinical Leadership, August 21, 2025)

The same career advancement programs designed to retain nurses are also accelerating their departure from bedside roles. As more nurses pursue leadership and advanced practice, health systems are exploring innovative solutions to maintain frontline care while supporting professional growth.

[Read more...](#)

COMMUNICATION

Safety, Teamwork, and Communication Drive Patient Trust and Loyalty (Press Ganey, July 21, 2025)

A Press Ganey study of over 10 million patient encounters reveals that consistent safety, clear communication, and effective teamwork are the strongest predictors of patient trust, loyalty, and equity in care delivery. [Read more...](#)

FALL PREVENTION

Reducing Nurse Turnover- A Key Strategy for Lowering Patient Falls and Costs (NAQ- Nursing Administration Quarterly, July 24, 2025)

High turnover in nursing contributes to broader organizational challenges, including disrupted communication, teamwork and patient care. These challenges can contribute to adverse quality outcomes, such as increased inpatient falls. [Read more...](#)

HIPAA

February 2025 Healthcare Data Breach Report (The HIPAA Journal, March 20, 2025)

There has been a 36% month-over-month reduction in healthcare data breaches, with 46 large healthcare data breaches reported to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in February – the lowest monthly total since September 2024. [Read more...](#)

HUMAN RESOURCES

Professional Boundaries: Five Strategies to Prevent Sexual Misconduct and Abuse (CNA INBRIEF, 2024 Issue 1)

Professional boundary violations, the third most common sentinel event in 2023, appear to be on the rise in healthcare settings. [Read more...](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

Improving Diversion Reporting Through Shared Best Practices (PSQH - Patient Safety, Patient Safety, Risk Management, July 28, 2025)

Drug diversion incidents remain a problem and widespread threat throughout healthcare but shared best practices and confidential reporting pathways help facilities detect and prevent harm more effectively. The Healthcare Diversion Network is helping to ensure accountability and support for affected professionals. [Read more...](#)

PATIENT CARE MANAGEMENT

Ask ECRI: Patient Boarding in Emergency Rooms and Acute Care (My ECRI / Guidance, July 28, 2025)

The National Academy of Medicine (formerly called the Institute of Medicine) recognized ED overcrowding as a national crisis in 2006, an issue that often results in ED boarding. They warned that ED boarding can be dangerous since EDs are not designed to treat sick patients for an extended period of time. [Read more...](#)

ACOG to Release Recommendations on COVID-19 Vaccine and Other Maternal Immunizations in Concert with the Vaccine Integrity Project (ACOG News Releases, July 16, 2025)

Recognizing the importance of unbiased, evidence-based guidance about maternal vaccination for respiratory conditions, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has committed

to developing and releasing maternal immunization respiratory season guidance and recommendations in collaboration with the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy's Vaccine Integrity Project (VIP). [Read more...](#)

PATIENT SAFETY

Treatment Teams: A Keystone of Healthcare Safety Culture (CNA Alert Bulletin, 2025 Issue 3)

Reducing errors in healthcare settings requires a top-down commitment to creating and maintaining a safety culture. Such a culture is characterized by a set of safety-centered values, beliefs and norms, which is shared by everyone and shapes their behaviors and interactions. [Read more...](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT

Medicare Enrollees Left Acute-Care Hospitals Against Medical Advice at Increasing Rates (Office of Inspector General – OIG, August 21, 2025)

The rates at which enrollees leave acute-care hospitals against medical advice (AMA) have steadily increased since 2006 across most demographics and spiked during the COVID-19 public health emergency resulting in poor health outcomes, higher return rates, and increased Medicare costs in the future. [Read more...](#)

TECHNOLOGY

Incorporating AI into Healthcare (Whitepaper) – ECRI June 2024

Artificial intelligence (AI) is actively transforming healthcare. The potential to improve clinical outcomes, reduce costs, and minimize healthcare inequities is immense; but so too is the potential for preventable harm. [Read more...](#)

TELEHEALTH

Virtual ED Program Shows Promise (AMA Ed Hub, August 25, 2025)

One organization's virtual emergency department has helped 70% of patients avoid in-person visits by offering real-time triage and care coordination through telehealth. The service (OvED) offers centralized virtual care with a board-certified emergency medicine physician. [Read more...](#)

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

Assembly Bill (AB) 2975: Hospital Weapon Detection Policy and Screening

AB 2975 directs the California Department of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) Standards Board (OSHSB) to amend the existing Workplace Violence Prevention in Health Care standards. [Read More...](#)

Risk Management Filter is a publication of Optima Healthcare Insurance Services, Inc.'s risk management department. The information is intended to provide general guidelines for risk management. It is not intended and should not be construed as legal or medical advice. Links are provided solely as a convenience and for informational purposes. Optima Risk Management bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of external sites or for that of subsequent links. Contact external sites for questions or concerns regarding content.