



Risk Management Filter

OPTIMA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE SERVICES

November 2025

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OPTIMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar:

[“Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention:
Protecting Patients, Your Team, and the Organization”](#)

November 20, 2025 @ 10:00 – 11:00 am (Pacific Time)

[Optima 2025 Education Calendar](#)

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Upcoming Events

California Society for Healthcare Risk Management (CSHRM) Symposium – Front Page News...And How to Avoid It! November 7, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites, San Luis Obispo. [Register here...](#)

[Complimentary webinar - The Power of One](#) – Friday, November 7, 2025 at 12 pm CST, hosted by ASHRM. "The Power of One" introduces the transformative "212° mindset—where one extra degree of effort turns potential into performance. Designed for healthcare risk professionals, this session reveals how small, intentional actions can drive extraordinary results in patient care, leadership, and personal growth."

ADMINISTRATION

Hospitals Face Shift as Joint Commission Streamlines Physical Environment Standards (Inside Accreditation & Quality September 30, 2025)

As hospitals and health systems prepare for the 2026 update to The Joint Commission (TJC)'s accreditation standards, one of the most significant changes on the horizon is the proposed merger of the Life Safety (LS) and Environment of Care (EC) chapters into a single, comprehensive Physical Environment (PE) chapter. [Read more...](#)

COMMUNICATION

The 2026 Emergency Management Overhaul: What Quality and Accreditation Leaders Need to Know- (Inside Accreditation & Quality October 28, 2025)

The Joint Commission's (TJC) 2026 revisions to the Emergency Management (EM) chapter mark a reshuffling of element numbers and represent a strategic reframe of how hospitals approach readiness, risk, and survey alignment. [Read more...](#)

Coming Soon: Joint Commission's SAFEST Initiative (Joint Commission, October 1, 2025)

In January 2026, Joint Commission will launch **Survey Analysis For Evaluating STrengths**, or **SAFEST™**, an initiative to formally acknowledge the performance strengths of accredited healthcare organizations. The SAFEST initiative is a component of *Accreditation 360: The New Standard*. The dual objectives of the SAFEST initiative are to: [Read more...](#)

- Provide more balanced feedback to accredited organizations
- Develop a catalog of quality and safety solutions based on the success stories of peers

Effective January 1, 2026, Joint Commission Has Introduced National Performance Goals™ (NPGs) - Replacing the Former National Patient Safety Goals® (NPSGs).

This is a new chapter that organizes requirements into salient, measurable topics with clearly defined goals. Some requirements associated with CoPs are included as they address critical issues, including reducing the risk for suicide and staffing to meet the needs of patients to provide safe, quality care. NPGs are available for the Hospital and Critical Access Hospital accreditation programs. [Read more...](#)

2025 Cybersecurity Year in Review, Part Two: Mitigating Third Party Risk, Ensuring Clinical Continuity and Addressing the AI Risk (AHA Cyber & Risk Intel Blog October 21, 2025)

Explains steps healthcare organizations should take to address cybersecurity risks. Discusses the need to prepare for interruption to services of 30 days or longer and the importance of focusing on clinical continuity. Also provides examples of how AI is being used in cyberattacks. [Read more...](#)

INFECTION PREVENTION

Interventions to Prevent Nonventilator Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia – Rapid Review (Evidenced-Based Practice Centers, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, May 2025)

This rapid review summarizes literature for patient safety practices intended to prevent nonventilator hospital-acquired pneumonia [Read more...](#)

INFORMED CONSENT

AFL 26-27 Assembly Bill (AB) 48 – Nursing Facility Resident Informed Consent Protection Act of 2023 (CPDH October 7, 2025)

This revised AFL updates the notice to SNFs, ICFs and hospice facilities that codifies current regulations related to a patient's right to be free from psychotherapeutic drugs, to provide informed consent before treatment with psychotherapeutic drugs, and clarifies applicable federal regulations. This revision clarifies which components of the bill are in effect currently and which components take effect after the standardized form is developed. [Read more...](#)

Medical Battery Claim Cannot Proceed for Procedures to Which Plaintiff Gave Implied Consent (Horvitz & Levy Legal Updates October 13, 2025).

Plaintiff sued a hospital and medical personnel, alleging traumatizing injuries during labor and birth. After (the OBGYN) telling plaintiff that the only way to avoid a C-Section delivery was a vacuum-assisted delivery, the doctor performed a vacuum-assisted delivery against plaintiff's objections. [Read more...](#)

MEDICAL STAFF LEADERS**Bringing Intelligence to the Everyday: How An AI-Driven Tool Is Redefining Diagnostic Efficiency (Beckers's Hospital Review, October 28, 2025)**

Artificial intelligence is transforming the everyday practice of medicine — from simplifying diagnostic workflows to helping clinicians make faster, more informed decisions. To explore how AI can enhance efficiency and trust in diagnostic testing. [Read more...](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY**Why Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Risks Must Be Analyzed by Their Risk Mechanisms (Med Device Online September 16, 2025)**

Although risk mechanisms are everywhere, they are the “dark matter” of the risk universe nobody sees. The harm, benefit, threat, and opportunity events are what everyone observes and tries to analyze. But no event occurs spontaneously. Every event is produced by a process, system, or mechanism. All the uncertainty of every event comes from the uncertainty of the mechanism that produces it. [Read more...](#)

OBSTETRICS**Rural Maternal Health (Rural Health Information Hub -RHI Updated August 2025)**

Consistent maternity care, reproductive services, and postpartum support are some of the access issues rural women face. Rural counties that are socioeconomically disadvantaged and experience other health disparities see higher rates of maternal morbidity and mortality. This topic guide provides tools to address barriers and challenges of rural maternal health. [Read more...](#)

PATIENT SAFETY**Why Handoffs Are Still Failing and How to Fix Them (Patient Safety Monitor Journal-Accreditation & Quality October 14, 2025)**

Despite decades of effort to standardize patient handoffs, breakdowns in communication during care transitions remain a threat to patient safety. Here, key handoff failures where current tools like SBAR and I-PASS succeed or underperform, cognitive clarity, patient involvement, and digital support are emphasized. [Read more...](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT

[Law Enforcement and Healthcare: Ethics, Evidence, and Patient Rights.](#)

Complimentary webinar on demand hosted by Med-IQ. Overview - Law enforcement officers (LEOs) are often present in healthcare areas where patient care is provided. Healthcare professionals (HCPs) may have uncertainty regarding the role of the LEO, what patient health information can be shared – if any – and the ethical and professional responsibilities of the HCP to the patient in these situations. This webinar examines these medicolegal and ethical issues using real-world examples with expert commentary from a defense attorney and a physician ethicist.

Strategies for Promoting Risk Management Professional Resilience (ASHRM White Paper- New 2025)

This white paper addresses the emotional and psychological challenges faced by health care risk professionals. It highlights the negative perceptions and emotional burdens these professionals endure, often leading to significant stress and burnout. [Read more...](#)

TELEHEALTH

California Medical Association – [CMS reverses course, limits Medicare claims hold to select services amid federal shutdown](#) (October 16, 2025).

What You Need to Know: CMS has reversed its earlier directive to hold all Medicare claims, now limiting temporary payment delay to only certain services affected by expired federal provisions – including most telehealth and FQHC claims. All other physician claims will continue to be processed and paid on schedule.

National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers – [October Newsletter](#).

CMS [Telehealth FAQ](#) – Updated 10/15/2025

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

Rethinking Hospital Workplace Violence Prevention (Healthcare Safety Leader- Accreditation & Quality October 14, 2025). The biggest gap seen in many hospitals is that they aren't truly engaging in prevention. They're preparing to react. What's often labeled 'prevention' is in reality, a crisis response plan for after an incident occurs. Hospitals can close the prevention gap by embedding proactive training, shared accountability, and cultural change into their violence prevention strategies. [Read more...](#)

Respect Saves Lives: How to Tackle Incivility in Healthcare (October 14, 2025). Workplace incivility among healthcare professionals is prevalent with more than half of nurses reporting experiencing incivility in the past year and over 30% of physicians saying they regularly receive rude, dismissive, or aggressive communication. These behaviors can be disruptive, undermining team cohesion, morale, and overall organizational culture, and negatively impact patient safety. To learn more about why civility matters for patient safety and steps leaders can take to combat workplace incivility, [read more here](#).

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.

2025 Education Calendar

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<u>Doctors in Distress: Physician Defendant Support and Education</u> Webinar- January 16 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Gita Pensa, Doctors in Litigation	<u>The Perfect Storm: Mental Health Patients Meet the Emergency Room</u> Webinar – February 20 @10 am – 11am (Pacific Time) Monica Cooke, Quality Plus Solutions	<u>Communication and Resolution Programs: A Quality and Patient Safety Imperative</u> Webinar – March 20 @10 am – 11am (Pacific Time) Thomas Gallagher, UW Medicine
Lessons Learned	BSL- EPL Managing Pregnancy- Related Leaves	CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle- March 6 th @ 10 am
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<u>AI in Healthcare: Opportunities, Risks and the Road to Trust</u> Webinar – April 24 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Raj Ratwani, MedStar Health	<u>Reignite the Patient Experience- Fully Staffed</u> Webinar - May 15 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Brian Lee, Custom Learning Systems	<u>Creating a Culture of Safety in the Operating Room</u> Webinar – June 12 @10 am – 11am (Pacific Time) David Feldman, Candello
	BSL- EPL Managing DEI Initiatives Within the Law	CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle- June 19 th @ 10 am
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<u>Leverage a Maverick Mentality to Successfully Defend Elder Abuse Claims</u> Webinar – July 10 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Cari Toneck	<u>ISMP Targeted Medication Safety Best Practices</u> Webinar- August 21 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Rita Jew, ISMP	<u>Defending Obstetric Cases: Managing Medical and Legal Risks for the Best Outcomes</u> Webinar – September 18 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Brant Poling, Christine Ringler, and Olga Kats-Chalfant
Lessons Learned- EPL	BSL-EPL Managing Generational Differences Among Staff	CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle- Sept 25 th @ 10 am
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<u>Generations in the Workplace</u> Webinar- October 30 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Jean Twenge, San Diego State University	Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention: Protecting Patients, Your Team, and the Organization Webinar – November 20 @ 10 – 11 am (Pacific Time) Josh Hyatt, Praesidium	MICRA Amendments – What is Coming Your Way... Webinar – December 11 @ 10 – 11 am (Pacific Time) Kenny Pedroza, Cole Pedroza LLP
Lessons Learned- HPL	BSL- EPL Managing Complaints of Bullying Behavior	CHI Risk Managers' Virtual Huddle- December 4 th @ 10 am
		BSL: 2026 EPL Legal Update

BSL is Bite Size Learning = Quarterly 30 minute EPL risk mitigation lessons learned recordings presented by Shaw Law Group

* Please refer to the education calendar posted on our website <https://rm.optimahealthcare.com> for the most up-to-date information.