



# Risk Management Filter

## OPTIMA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE SERVICES

January 2026

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### OPTIMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar:

**"Falls Prevention as a Quality Imperative: Proven Strategies for Leading Risk Factors"**  
January 22, 2026 @ 10:00 – 11:00 am (Pacific Time)

[Optima 2026 Education Calendar](#)

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### COMMUNICATION

#### **Reducing Nursing Documentation Burden 2025 (KLAS Research, December 16, 2025)**

Nearly 8 in 10 acute care nurses say they lose time each week to unproductive charting, and those facing the heaviest documentation burdens are significantly more likely to experience burnout and consider leaving their jobs. [Read more...](#)

### COVID-19

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine and Pregnancy Outcomes, Valacyclovir for Alzheimer Disease, Abortion Access in Los Angeles, and More (Journal of the American Medical Association, December 19, 2025)**

Does the COVID-19 vaccine improve maternal and fetal outcomes? And what role does herpes simplex virus play in Alzheimer's disease? This and much more on today's JAMA Editors' Summary.

[Listen here...](#)

### CYBERSECURITY & ARTIFICAL INTELLEGENCE

#### **CLEAR Announces Contact with CMS to Power Secure, Seamless Digital Identify for Medicare.gov (CLEAR, December 9, 2025)**

CLEAR has announced a new contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to integrate its [CLEAR1](#) secure identity platform, modernizing account creation, recovery, strengthening fraud prevention and access to health information for beneficiaries and providers starting in early 2026. [Read more...](#)

**State of Health Security 2025: Research and Trends (HealthLeaders, 2025)**

Get all of the data your healthcare organization needs to build strategy and plans for AI and Cybersecurity. [Download the report....](#)

**It's Time for Healthcare Organizations to View Cybersecurity as Risk Management (Healthcare IT Today, December 10, 2025)**

Healthcare cyber threats continue to escalate in frequency and cost. In 2024, 725 healthcare data were reported to the OCR involving 500 or more records, and third-party involvement doubled to 30%. To learn more about protecting your organization and mitigation risks, [read more....](#)

**Risks, Benefits and AI: Rethinking Informed Consent (Podcast - The Digital Healthcare Experience, December 17, 2025)**

This podcast explores when AI use may require disclosure or separate consent and the legal, ethical, and malpractice risks healthcare leaders and clinicians should be aware of. [Listen here...](#)

**DIRECTORS & OFFICERS (D&O)****Guest Post: Global AI Regulations: D&O Liability Implications in a Changing Legal Landscape (The D&O Library, December 4, 2025)**

This article takes a look at the developing efforts of a variety of governmental regulators to address the issues that AI presents, and considers the implications of these regulatory developments for the liabilities of corporate directors and officers. [Read more...](#)

**HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT****Hidden Work and Shadow AI are Driving Health System AI Pilots, New Findings Show (Newswire, December 17, 2025)**

Black Book Market Research finds fewer than 1 in 5 health systems report mature AI governance and most undercount staff time spent supervising and correcting AI output. [Read more...](#)

**HIPAA****Navigating HIPAA Compliance for Healthcare IoT Devices and Wearables (HIPAA Partners, July 20, 2025)**

The healthcare industry continues to rapidly adopt Internet of Things (IoT) devices and wearables. As these technologies introduce new vulnerabilities, organizations must strengthen HIPAA compliance and security practices to safeguard sensitive patient data. This article offers actionable insights. [Read more...](#)

**Kaiser Permanente Agrees to Pay Up to \$47.5 Million to Settle Web Tracker Litigation (The HIPAA Journal, December 3, 2025)**

Kaiser disclosed a data breach last year following a voluntary internal investigation into its use of tracking technologies, which confirmed that up to 13.4 million individuals had potentially been affected – the second-largest healthcare data breach to be announced in 2024. [Read more...](#)

**HUMAN RESOURCES****SHRM California Legislative Report (Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP, October 16, 2025)**

California's 2025 Legislative Session wrapped on October 13, bringing several notable updates, including the Top Six new Employment Laws all California Employers and Human Resources Professionals should know about. [Read more...](#)

**Healthcare employee experience 2025 (Press Ganey, 2025)**

The *Healthcare Employee Experience 2025* report analyzes feedback from 2.3 million healthcare workers to highlight emerging workforce trends. Trust, respect, belonging, safety, and meaningful support – not just compensation – are key to improving engagement, culture, and retention in healthcare organizations. [Read more...](#)

**PATIENT SAFETY****California Assembly Bill 849 – Medical Chaperones (California Department of Public Health, 2025)**

AB 849, passed October 7, 2025, requires licensed health facilities to provide notice to patients – in writing, verbally, or electronically – that for sensitive exams involving an ultrasound, a trained chaperone will be available upon request by January 1, 2027. [Read more...](#)

**Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM): A Short Primer – (ASHRM Exchange, November 2025)**

As hospitals near the 2025 attestation deadline for the CMS Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM), this primer highlights how the measure evaluates safety culture and system maturity across five domains. With public reporting set for fall 2026, the PSSM pushes organizations to strengthen foundational practices that advance zero harm. [Read more...](#)

**PERINATAL SERVICES****The Role of Vaccination in Maternal and Perinatal Outcomes Associated with COVID-19 in Pregnancy (Journal of the American Medical Association, December 15, 2025)**

This study demonstrated that among individuals with SARS-CoV-2 in pregnancy, COVID-19 vaccination was associated with a lower risk of maternal hospitalization and critical care unit admission, as well as preterm birth. [Read more....](#)

**RISK MANAGEMENT****Charted: The Current State of US Healthcare (Advisory Board, December 11, 2025)**

West Health and Gallup's latest nationwide study explores consumer experiences with healthcare, focusing on affordability, quality, and access. The findings offer valuable insights for risk management leaders to strategize opportunities to improve access, decrease barriers, and mitigate patient-experience risks. [Read more...](#)

**TECHNOLOGY****Your Cyber Monday Health Tech Haul May Expose You: 5 Ways to Keep Your Personal Data Safe (Journal of AHIMA, December 1, 2025)**

The convenience of health tech comes with a tradeoff: increased exposure to personal data. [Read more....](#)

**TELEHEALTH****Fourth Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription of Controlled Medications (Department of Justice and Drug Enforcement Administration, December 31, 2025)**

A fourth extension of telemedicine flexibilities for the prescribing of controlled medications is effective through December 31, 2026. [Read more...](#)

## WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

**The Burden of Violence to U.S. Hospitals – A Comprehensive Assessment of Financial Costs and Other Impacts of Workplace and Community Violence (American Hospital Association, June 2, 2025)**

This report characterizes the impacts of violence on hospitals as a public health problem and addresses future policy and research efforts to mitigate violence impacting hospitals and the healthcare system.

[Read more...](#)

**Pilot Program Sees 78% Reduction in Workplace Violence (Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare, December 3, 2025)**

A new nurse-led pilot program aimed at mitigating workplace violence in the hospital setting using communication enhancements, tools for early risk identification of escalating behaviors, and increased accessibility to de-escalation resources has shown a 78% reduction in workplace violence incidents over its first year. [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.

JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH	
<b>Fall Prevention</b> Webinar- January 22 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Georgia Reiner, ECRI		<b>Communication &amp; Leadership Engagement</b> Webinar- February 19 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Geri Amori		<b>Human Factors – Preventing Errors and Patient Harm</b> Webinar- March 19 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Ellen Evans	
<b>BSL: 2026 EPL Legal Update</b>		<b>CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle</b>		<b>Lessons Learned</b>	
APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
<b>Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Prevention</b> Webinar- TBA		<b>Emergency Department and Difficult Patient Discharge</b> Webinar- TBA		<b>Incident Reporting</b> Webinar- TBA	
<b>CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle</b>		<b>CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle</b>		<b>Lessons Learned</b>	
JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
<b>Culture of Safety</b> Webinar- TBA		<b>Workplace Violence Prevention</b> Webinar- TBA		<b>2026 CHI Owners Retreat</b> No Webinar	
<b>BSL</b>		<b>CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle</b>		<b>Lessons Learned</b>	
OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
<b>Cybersecurity/ Artificial Intelligence</b> Webinar- TBA		<b>Teamwork in High-Risk Healthcare Settings</b> Webinar- TBA		<b>Wellness</b> Webinar- TBA	
<b>CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle</b>		<b>CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle</b>		<b>Lessons Learned</b>	

**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.optimahc.com> for the most up-to-date information.