



# Risk Management Filter

OPTIMA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE SERVICES

February 2026

Vol. 26, No. 2

## OPTIMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar:

[“Bridging the Administration Barrier: Speaking Patient Safety in Operational Terms”](#)

February 19, 2026 @ 10:00 – 11:00 am (Pacific Time)

[Optima 2026 Education Calendar](#)

Contact:

Rachel Alie, RN, Risk Management Education Coordinator  
at 916.945.6203 or at [ralie@optimahealthcare.com](mailto:ralie@optimahealthcare.com)

## ADMINISTRATION

**New “Know Your Rights” Notice Must be Provided to Employees by February 1, 2026 (Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt, LLP, January 13, 2026)**

As of February 1, 2026, California employers must comply with a major new notice requirement under the Workplace Know Your Rights Act (SB 294). [Read more...](#)

## COMMUNICATION

**2027 Updated to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets and Mandatory Reporting Guidance (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services December 30, 2025)**

States are no longer required to report on the immunization status of children and pregnant people according to CMS state health officials. [Read more...](#)

## CYBERSECURITY

**2025 Cybersecurity Year in Review, Part 2: Mitigating Third-Party Risk, Ensuring Clinical Continuity and Addressing AI Risk (American Hospital Association, October 21, 2025)**

Expert observations made looking back at 2025’s health care cybersecurity landscape. [Read more...](#)

## DIRECTORS & OFFICERS (D&O)

**Delaware Court: Board Failed to Respond to Sexual Misconduct “Red Flags” (the D&O Diary, January 19, 2026)**

A Delaware Chancery Court sustained a breach of the duty of oversight claim against directors alleged to have covered up underlying allegations of assault and retaliated against a whistleblower. [Read more...](#)

## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

### **How UChicago Medicine Cut Non-Urgent ER Visits (U.S. News & World Report, January 7, 2026)**

Non-urgent visits to the emergency departments (ED) remain a persistent challenge. In response, UChicago implemented a patient advocate program to help connect patients to ongoing care, resulting in a 45% reduction in low-acuity ED visit rates among patients serviced by the program. [Read more...](#)

### **Exploring Factors That Drive Nonurgent Emergency Department Use (National Institutes of Health, July 23, 2025)**

Findings suggest many Emergency Department (ED) visits could be managed in alternative care settings, highlighting the need for patient education on appropriate ED utilization and other care options. [Read more...](#)

## HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

### **40 million Americans use ChatGPT for Healthcare: Report (Becker's Health IT, January 5, 2026)**

This report highlights how patients and clinicians are increasingly turning to AI to navigate a complex and strained U.S. healthcare system. [Read more...](#)

## HIPAA

### **Update Your Notice of Privacy Practices by February 16, 2026 (the HIPAA Guide, January 13, 2026)**

HIPAA-regulated organizations must update their Notice of Privacy Practices by February 16, 2026 to reflect new federal requirements aligning the HIPAA Privacy Rule with enhanced confidentiality protections for substance use disorder patient records under [42 C.F.R. Part 2](#). [Read more...](#)

### **OCR Makes Parental Access to Minor Children's Medical Record a HIPAA Enforcement Priority (The HIPAA Guide, December 15, 2025)**

The Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights reminds HIPAA-covered entities of their obligations to provide parents and legal guardians access to minors' medical records upon request. [Read more...](#)

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### **2026 AHA Health Care Workforce Scan (American Hospital Association, 2026)**

From new staffing models and education pathways to technology governance and organizational design, leaders are meeting today's workforce demands and preparing for what's next. Learn about their strategies in the 2026 AHA Health Care Workforce Scan. [Download here...](#)

## OBSTETRICS

### **Rural Obstetrical Care Workforce: A State-Level Analysis (WWAMI Rural Health Research Center University of Washington, December 2025)**

This state-level analysis examines the distribution of the rural obstetrical care workforce across the U.S., offering a high-level view of access-to-care and maternal patient safety considerations relevant to risk management. [Read more...](#)

## PATIENT SAFETY

### **Patient Safety Awareness Week (Institute for Healthcare Improvement, 2026)**

Patient Safety Awareness Week serves as a dedicated time and platform for growing awareness about patient safety and recognizing the work already being done. [Read more...](#)

### **Patient Safety Awareness Week (Center for Patient Safety, 2026)**

Download a tool kit, including posters and banners in preparation for Patient Safety Awareness Week. [Read more...](#)

### **Webinar: [Making Peace with CMS's Patient Safety Structural Measure](#)**

A complimentary webinar scheduled Thursday, February 10, 2026, 9 – 10 am MST.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

### **Candelo Educational Webinar: Emerging Data and Best Practices to Curb Sexual Misconduct Liability (SML) Risk – Tuesday, February 10, 2026 – 10:00-11:00 am PST**

This education session will explore national trends and provide strategies for reducing Sexual Misconduct Liability (SML) risk, offering insights and guidance to support organizational safety and risk management efforts. [Register here...](#)

### **2026 California Society for Healthcare Risk Management Annual Conference (March 11 – March 13, 2026)**

The mission of CSHRM is to promote safe, proactive and innovative healthcare risk management solutions through professional relationships, providing educational opportunities and facilitating the exchange of information among members. To join CSHRM in Napa for their 2026 Conference, [Register here...](#)

### **From Guesswork to Strategy: A Practical Guide to Risk Scoring & Reporting (Origami Risk, 2025)**

Transform your risk management approach from an isolated compliance exercise into a strategic advantage with this guide. [Read more...](#)

### **Mitigating Healthcare Liability with Proactive Risk Management (Insurance CIO Outlook, accessed January 19, 2026)**

Proactive enterprise-wide risk management focused on early risk identification, data-driven decision-making, and cross-functional collaboration can reduce healthcare liability exposure while strengthening patient safety. [Read more...](#)

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AND MISCONDUCT PREVENTION

### **National Native Helpline for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to Open Alaska-Specific Service (Alaska Beacon, January 7, 2026)**

[Strong Hearts Native Helpline](#), a Native-led nonprofit providing 24/7 anonymous and confidential support for individuals impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault, is expanding to offer Alaska-specific services designed to improve access and address gaps in support for Alaska Native and rural communities. [Read more...](#)

### **Reputational Mitigation for Healthcare Following an Allegation of Abuse or Sexual Misconduct (Willis Towers Watson, January 16, 2026)**

Explore strategies for healthcare organizations to manage abuse allegations, protect trust, ensure safety and rebuild reputation through transparency and accountability. [Read more...](#)

## TECHNOLOGY

### **Leveraging ECRI's Top 10 Health Technology Hazards Report: A Strategic Imperative for Healthcare in 2026 (ECRI, January 6, 2026)**

This report serves as a trusted, evidence-based guide to help healthcare organizations identify, prioritize, and mitigate the most pressing technology-related risks of the year ahead. [Read more...](#)

### **Rebecca Jones on Recent Trends in Patient Safety Data and the Effect of AI on Events and Analysis (Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety, December 10, 2025)**

Patient safety reporting evolves as healthcare explores AI's role in identifying and analyzing adverse events. [Read more...](#)

### **Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Patient Safety Events: Preliminary Exploration of Events Reported to the PA-PSRS Database (Patient Safety, October 27, 2025)**

Patient safety data reveals emerging risks and reporting gaps related to artificial intelligence in healthcare. [Read more...](#)

### **What Does ChatGPT Health Mean for Healthcare? (Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare, January 15, 2026)**

OpenAI's January launch of ChatGPT Health has prompted plenty of discussion. Here is what several industry experts have to say. [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
<p><b><u>Falls Prevention as a Quality Imperative: Proven Strategies for Leading Risk Factors</u></b>  <b>Webinar-</b> January 22 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)            Georgia Reiner, ECRI</p>	<p><b>Bridging the Administration Barrier: Speaking Patient Safety in Operational Terms</b>  <b>Webinar-</b> February 19 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)            Geri Amori</p>	<p><b>Human Factors – Preventing Errors and Patient Harm</b>  <b>Webinar-</b> March 19 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)            Ellen Evans</p>
BSL: 2026 EPL Legal Update	CHI Risk Manager’s Virtual Huddle	Lessons Learned
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p><b>Culture of Safety &amp; Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Prevention</b>  <b>Webinar-</b> April 23 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)            Shannon Kooker, ECRI</p>	<p><b>Emergency Department and Difficult Patient Discharge</b>  <b>Webinar-</b> May 28 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)            Heather Theaux, Northbay</p>	<p><b>Medical Chaperone Policies</b>  <b>Webinar-</b> June 18 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)            Laura Stone, ECRI</p>
CHI Risk Manager’s Virtual Huddle		CHI Risk Manager’s Virtual Huddle
BSL		Lessons Learned
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p><b>Incident Reporting</b>  <b>Webinar-</b> July 23 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)            Joan Porcaro, WTW</p>	<p><b>Workplace Violence Prevention</b>  <b>Webinar-</b> August 20 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)            Scott Zeller, Vituity</p>	<p><b>2026 CHI Owners Retreat</b>  <b>No Webinar</b></p>
BSL	CHI Risk Manager’s Virtual Huddle	Lessons Learned
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p><b>Artificial Intelligence &amp; Cybersecurity</b>  <b>Webinar-</b> October 22 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)            Chad Brouillard, Foster &amp; Eldridge LLP</p>	<p><b>Teamwork in High-Risk Healthcare Settings</b>  <b>Webinar-</b> TBA</p>	<p><b>Wellness</b>  <b>Webinar-</b> TBA</p>
CHI Risk Manager’s Virtual Huddle		
BSL		Lessons Learned

**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.