



# Risk Management Filter

OPTIMA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE SERVICES

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## OPTIMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar:

[“Crossing the Abyss:  
Applying Human Factors Analysis to Prevent Medical Errors and Patient Harm”](#)

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

[Optima 2026 Education Calendar](#)

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## COMMUNICATION

### **Native American Pathway Program (Mayo Clinical College of Medicine and Science, 2026)**

The Mayo Clinic Native American Pathway Program offers a five-week virtual summer experience that supports American Indian and Alaska Native undergraduate students pursuing health careers through mentorship, academic enrichment, and professional development. Application deadline is March 31, 2026. [Read more...](#)

### **Hospitals and the 2026 World Cup: Strengthening Preparedness for Human Trafficking (Becker's, February 19, 2026)**

In 2026, the FIFA World Cup will be hosted across 16 cities in North America, with many matches taking place in the United States. This is a multi-week, multisite operation that reshapes the regional environment in which hospitals operate, placing sustained pressure on labor markets, contracted services, and supply chains across multiple jurisdictions. [Read more...](#)

## FALL PREVENTION

### **Nurse Practice Environment, Job Satisfaction, and Turnover and Patient Falls (Journal of the American Medical Association, December 29, 2025)**

According to the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators, high nurse turnover was significantly associated with increased patient falls. [Read more...](#)

## MEDICAL STAFF LEADERS

### **Why Malpractice Awards Are Climbing (Becker's, January 2, 2026)**

The American Medical Association reported Malpractice awards of over \$10 million are being doled out more frequently in recent years. Here are six takeaways from the report. [Read more...](#)

**Commit to Zero Harm 24/7 (PressGaney, 2026)**

Participating health systems will work to address the top 10 barriers to optimizing safety in healthcare by driving system change and elevating patient safety to the highest levels of strategic planning, resource allocation, and performance oversight. [Read more...](#)

**OBSTETRICS****2026 Maternal & Infant Health Trends Report: Policy, Peril, & Possibility (Progeny Health, 2026)**

With maternal mortality highest among the world's high-income nations, the report looks at this looming crisis fueled by health disparities, federal policy changes, reproductive health restrictions, access challenges, and maternity deserts. [Read more...](#)

**PATIENT CARE MANAGEMENT****California Delays Psychiatric Hospital Staffing Rules (Becker's, January 28, 2026)**

The California Department of Public Health has delayed implementation of emergency staffing regulations for psychiatric hospitals, originally slated for Jan. 31, following pushback from the public and hospitals. [Read more...](#)

**PATIENT SAFETY****Joint Commission and NQF Aligning Serious Reportable Events and Sentinel Events List (Joint Commission, January 26, 2026)**

The Joint Commission and the National Quality Forum (NQF) announced that they are aligning their safety event lists, simplifying reporting requirements, reducing administrative burden and confusion, and allowing organizations to focus more directly on improving patient safety. [Read more ...](#)

**PEDIATRICS****American Academy of Pediatrics Issues Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for 2026 (January 26, 2026)**

The American Academy of Pediatrics has released its recommended 2026 childhood and adolescent immunization schedule, reflecting updated evidence, new vaccines, and revised guidance. [Read more...](#)

**State and National Estimates of the Cost of Emergency Department Pediatric Readiness and Lives Saved (Journal of the American Medical Association Network, November 1, 2024)**

The study, which examined 4,840 emergency departments, estimates that the lives of 2,143 children could be saved annually if there was universal high ED pediatric readiness. [Read more...](#)

**RISK MANAGEMENT****Defending Nurse Depositions in Modern Medical Malpractice Litigation (Hall Booth Smith, P.C., February 2026)**

This whitepaper outlines a framework for defending nurse depositions and highlights their importance in medical malpractice litigation, emphasizing the need for proactive, structured preparation to protect nurses, strengthen defense credibility, and reduce organizational risk. [Read more...](#)

**Leaning into the “Soft” Side of Health Care Risk Management (ASHRM EXCHANGE, February 4, 2026)**

When people think of health care risk management, they often picture bad outcomes, lawsuits and claims. But for those on the frontlines of risk management, much of the work is interpersonal and human. Some do not fully understand what health care risk management is, or the involvement of risk. In these moments, soft skills become the most important tools for risk professionals. [Read more...](#)

**TECHNOLOGY****UCHealth Partners with Abridge to Deploy Enterprise-Grade AI Systemwide, Enhancing Patient Provider Experience (Businesswise, February 24, 2026)**

UCHealth, a nationally recognized, Colorado-based nonprofit health system, is partnering with Abridge to bring enterprise-grade artificial intelligence to clinical locations across the state. Albridge’s ambient AI technology securely captures the conversation during patient appointments and generates draft clinical documentation in the patient chart. [Read more...](#)

**WORKPLACE VIOLENCE****Preventing Violence in Healthcare Settings (ECRI, January 6, 2026)**

Ensuring the safety of healthcare workers amid the rise in workplace violence presents hospital leaders with a complex challenge that intersects workforce retention, quality, and regulatory accountability. New guidance from ECRI outlines some risk factors, applicable laws and various prevention strategies to consider. [Read more...](#)

**Self-Assessment Questionnaire: Violence Prevention in the Healthcare Workplace: Assessing Workplace Violence Prevention Programs (ECRI, January 5, 2026)**

Download the Workplace Violence Self-Assessment Questionnaire to learn more about your facilities prevention preparedness. [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><a href="#">Falls Prevention as a Quality Imperative: Proven Strategies for Leading Risk Factors</a>  <b>Webinar-</b> January 22 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time)            Georgia Reiner, ECRI</p>	<p><a href="#">Bridging the Administration Barrier: Speaking Patient Safety in Operational Terms</a>  <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.