



Risk Management Filter

OPTIMA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE SERVICES

April 2026

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OPTIMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar:

[Empowering Voices Against Sexual Abuse and Misconduct: Building a Culture of Safety](#)

April 23, 2026 @ 10:00 – 11:00 am (Pacific Time)

[Optima 2026 Education Calendar](#)

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ADMINISTRATION

Costs of Caring: Challenges Facing America's Hospitals as They Care for Patients in 2026 (American Hospital Association, March 11, 2026)

The American Hospital Association (AHA) released the latest edition of its annual Costs of Caring report, which shows that hospitals and health systems continue to face increases in the costs of people, supplies, medicines and infrastructure needed to provide care and services to their communities. The report outlines key factors that are putting pressure on hospitals as they care for patients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [Read more...](#)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

How Health Systems Are Tackling Behavioral Health Fragmentation (BECKER'S, February 23, 2026)

Health systems are responding to fragmented behavioral healthcare delivery in different ways. In West Virginia, the access challenge is especially stark. [Read more...](#)

COMMUNICATION

Malpractice Risks in Communication Failures: A 10-Year Follow Up (Candello solutions by CRICO, 2025)

Communication failures continue to contribute to about 40% of medical professional liability cases involving at least one breakdown in communication and increase the likelihood of closing with an indemnity payment averaging \$338K. For actionable insights and best practices [read more...](#)

PSQH: The Podcase Episode 153 – Malpractice Risks from Provider-to-Patient Communication Failures (Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare, March 10, 2026)

Breakdowns in provider-to-patient communication are a major cause of malpractice risk, often leading to patient harm, misunderstandings, and preventable errors. [Listen here...](#)

Essential Communication Skills for Leaders (Center for Creative Leadership, March 26, 2025)

Effective leadership communication helps managers build trust, strengthen relationships, foster innovation, and successfully guide teams through change by enabling clear, consistent, and meaningful interactions. [Read more...](#)

FALL PREVENTION**STEADI – Older Adult Fall Prevention (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, August 4, 2025)**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) STEADI (Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries) program helps providers assist patients to prevent falls while in the hospital AND after discharge. [Read more](#)

INFECTION PREVENTION**Sepsis Prevention Assessment Tool for Nursing Homes (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 30, 2026)**

The Sepsis Prevention Assessment Tool (SPAT) for Nursing Homes identifies gaps in sepsis policies, training, and practices in nursing homes that can be targeted to improve infection prevention, sepsis recognition, and health outcomes. [Read more...](#)

LONG TERM CARE**Nursing Homes Inappropriately Diagnosed Residents with Schizophrenia to Mask the Misuse of Antipsychotic Drugs (Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, March 2026)**

The misuse of antipsychotic drugs in nursing homes has been a longstanding concern, particularly because these drugs can have a sedative effect and might be used as chemical restraints to control residents' behavior. [Read more...](#)

PATIENT CARE MANAGEMENT**Discharge Lounges: What Actually Works (BECKER'S, March 3, 2026)**

A discharge lounge boom is on the horizon, yet many systems are struggling to find the best practices for implementation. [Read more...](#)

PATIENT SAFETY**Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns 2026 (ECRI and Institute for Safe Medication Practices March 2026, 2026)**

Navigating AI in healthcare tops the list of patient safety concerns in the most recent special report, *Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns 2026*, published by ECRI & the ISMP. [Read more...](#)

PEDIATRICS

New Safety Data Inform Updated AAP Policy on Pediatric Anesthesia (American Academy of Pediatrics, February 23, 2026)

The American Academy of Pediatrics has revised its policy statement on facility-based requirements of pediatric anesthesia. [Read more...](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT

2026 CHA Consent Law Seminar, May 14, 2026 (California Hospital Association)

Legal gray areas and heightened emotions can complicate decisions that often must be made under duress and may expose hospitals to significant litigation threats. And constant changes don't help. CHA's Consent Law Seminar will prepare you to make tough decisions with confidence. [Register here...](#)

Health Care Risk Management Week June 15-19, 2026 (American Society Healthcare Risk Management)

Explore all the tools and resources ASHRM has to offer to celebrate the 2026 Health Care Risk Management Week. [Read more...](#)

TECHNOLOGY

Preparing PAs for AI and Beyond (Patient Safety and Quality Healthcare, March 2026)

This new report explores how physician associates (PAs) are using AI today, where organizations are falling behind, and what healthcare leaders must do now to prepare their workforce for the future. [Read more...](#)

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

When EMTALA Collides with Hospital Anti-Violence Signs (BECKER'S, February 27, 2026)

Healthcare leaders are carefully weighing the wording of signs aimed at reducing workplace violence out of concern about violating the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act. [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><u>Falls Prevention as a Quality Imperative: Proven Strategies for Leading Risk Factors</u> Webinar- January 22 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Georgia Reiner, ECRI</p>	<p><u>Bridging the Administration Barrier: Speaking Patient Safety in Operational Terms</u> Webinar- February 19 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Geri Amori</p>	<p><u>Crossing the Abyss: Applying Human Factors Analysis to Prevent Medical Errors and Patient Harm</u> Webinar- 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>Empowering Voices Against Sexual Abuse and Misconduct: Building a Culture of Safety Webinar- April 23 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Shannon Kooker, ECRI</p>	<p>Emergency Department and Difficult Patient Discharge Webinar- May 28 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Heather Theaux, Northbay</p>	<p>Medical Chaperone Policies Webinar- 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>Incident Reporting Webinar- July 23 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Joan Porcaro, WTW</p>	<p>Workplace Violence Prevention Webinar- August 20 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Scott Zeller, Vituity</p>	<p>2026 CHI Owners Retreat No Webinar</p>
BSL	CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle	Lessons Learned
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>Artificial Intelligence & Cybersecurity Webinar- October 22 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Chad Brouillard, Foster & Eldridge LLP</p>	<p>Teamwork in High-Risk Healthcare Settings Webinar- TBA</p>	<p>Wellness Webinar- 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.