



Risk Management Filter

OPTIMA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE SERVICES

June 2026

Vol. 26, No. 6

OPTIMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar:

[“Preventing Sexual Abuse and Misconduct: Using Chaperones During Sensitive Exams”](#)

June 18, 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

CYBERSECURITY

Industry Voices – Hospitals are Very Online, but What Happens When They’re Plunged into ‘Digital Darkness’? (FIERCE Healthcare, April 24, 2026)

As healthcare organizations become increasingly dependent on digital systems, outages and cyber disruptions pose significant risks to operations and patient safety, reinforcing the need for comprehensive downtime and emergency preparedness strategies. [Read more...](#)

Inside the Escalating Fraud Threat in Healthcare (Health Leaders Media, April 20, 2026)

Healthcare companies are facing a growing wave of sophisticated fraud schemes underscoring the need for stronger internal controls, cross-functional oversight, and proactive risk mitigation strategies to protect organizational assets. [Read more...](#)

FBI Urges Hospitals to Elevate Cybersecurity as Patient Safety Priority (Health Leaders Media, April 28, 2026)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is urging hospitals to elevate cybersecurity as a core patient safety priority amid rising cyber threats, reinforcing the need for leadership oversight, workforce awareness, and strengthened safeguards to protect clinical operations and patient care. [Read more...](#)

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS (D&O)

AI and Corporate Governance: Do Boards Need an AI Expert? (The D&O Diary, April 28, 2026)

There is an increasing expectation to understand and oversee artificial intelligence risks and opportunities, prompting discussion on adding AI expertise in the boardroom. [Read more...](#)

MEDICAL STAFF LEADERS

Physician Alignment, Engagement, and Retention: A Roadmap for Healthcare Administrators (CHG Healthcare, May 11, 2026)

This whitepaper reframes physician alignment, engagement, and retention as a strategic, enterprise-wide imperative—and outlines a practical roadmap for leaders seeking measurable improvement. [Read more...](#)

PERINATAL SERVICES

Reimagining Birth: How TeamBirth is Transforming Maternal Care (Candello, April 20, 2026)

TeamBirth is a collaborative care model that promotes structured communication, shared decision-making, and transparency, supporting improved maternal outcomes and reducing liability risk. [Read more...](#)

MPL Case: Could Timely Diagnosis of Preeclampsia Have Prevented Patient's Stroke? (Inside Medical Liability, Spring 2026)

Delays in recognizing preeclampsia and initiating timely treatment remain a significant source of maternal risk, underscoring the importance of early identification, standardized protocols, and timely escalation to improve outcomes and reduce liability exposure. [Read more...](#)

PATIENT CARE MANAGEMENT

The Value of Extending Nasal Decolonization into the Postoperative Period for SSI Prevention (Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare, February 2026)

This PSQH whitepaper highlights evidence supporting combined pre- and postoperative nasal decolonization as an emerging strategy to reduce surgical site infections. [Download the report here...](#)

Gender-Affirming Care: Emerging Legal and Insurance Risk Considerations (WTW, April 7, 2026)

Gender-affirming care presents evolving legal, regulatory, and insurance complexities, requiring healthcare organizations to closely monitor policy changes, assess coverage implications, and proactively manage associated liability risks. [Read more...](#)

Trauma Informed Care in Action (Trauma-Informed Care Implementation Resource Center, 2026)

Learn how providers serving diverse populations in a range of delivery settings have successfully integrated trauma-informed care throughout their organizations. [Read more...](#)

PATIENT SAFETY

Silence Kills 2.0: How Communication Failures Stifle Innovation and Harm Patients (American Journal of Critical Care, May 1, 2026)

Communication failures in healthcare continue to be a significant contributor to patient harm, reinforcing the importance of structured communication, psychological safety, and team-based practices to improve outcomes and reduce preventable errors. [Read more...](#)

Patient Safety in Acute and Ambulatory Care in 2025: Analysis of 326,672 Event Reports from Pennsylvania (Patient Safety Authority, April 27, 2026)

An analysis of 326,672 patient safety event reports highlights ongoing risks across acute and ambulatory settings, underscoring the importance of robust event reporting systems, data-driven insights, and targeted interventions to reduce harm and strengthen patient safety programs. [Read more...](#)

Barriers to Help-Seeking for Healthcare Workers. (The Betsy Lehman Center's Peer Support Learning Collaborative, Complimentary Webinar on June 16th at 9 am PT)

The Betsy Lehman Center's Learning Collaborative welcomes Dr. Daniel Saddawi-Konefka, to examine the barriers that lead many health care workers to delay or forgo seeking help for themselves and highlight approaches to address and overcome these challenges. [Register here...](#)

Latest Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades Find Patient Safety Improvement (Patient Safety and Quality Healthcare, May 12, 2026)

The biannual Safety Grade is assigned to most general hospitals in the United States based on their ability to protect patients from medical errors, accidents, injuries and infections. It is the only ratings program focused exclusively on how safe hospitals are for patients. [Read more...](#)

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

When Quality Scores Drop but Care Hasn't Changed (Patient Safety and Quality Healthcare, May 7, 2026)

When the data doesn't fully reflect what happened in the room, the story it tells can lead even experienced teams in the wrong direction. Many times, the issue isn't the care at all. It's how that care was captured, documented, and translated. [Read more...](#)

Hospitals and Health Systems: Tools and Resources for Hospitals, Long-term Care Facilities, and Primary Care Facilities (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, May 2026)

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) provides hospitals and care organizations with toolkits, recommendations, and practical resources to improve care quality, enhance processes, and drive better patient safety outcomes. [Read more....](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT

Medical Assistants: Managing the Risk (Inside Medical Liability, 2026)

The growing role of medical assistants in healthcare delivery introduces additional liability considerations, emphasizing the need for clear scope of practice, appropriate supervision, and competency validation to support safe patient care. [Read more...](#)

Enterprise Risk Management: Top 10 Risks for 2025 (American Society for Healthcare Risk Management, 2025)

The American Society for Health Care Risk Management outlines the top enterprise risks facing healthcare organizations, highlighting strategic, operational, and clinical vulnerabilities that remain highly relevant for 2026 and require proactive, system-wide risk management and leadership oversight to strengthen organizational resilience. [Read more...](#)

SURGICAL OUTCOMES

Fall Prevention and Delirium Screening are the Most Effective Interventions for Improving Surgical Outcomes in Older Adults (American College of Surgeons, May 12, 2026)

According to a new American College of Surgeons study, the answer isn't a single fix—it's a 7-part approach that's already proving to reduce complications and costs. [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><u>Empowering Voices Against Sexual Abuse and Misconduct: Building a Culture of Safety</u> Webinar- April 23 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Shannon Kooker, ECRI</p>	<p>Behavioral Health in the Emergency Department 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- Hiring and Onboarding to Prevent Sexual Harassment		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>EMTALA Webinar- November 15 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Robert Bitterman, MD</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.