



Risk Management Filter

OPTIMA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE SERVICES

July 2026

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OPTIMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar:

["From Allegation to Action: A Healthcare Response Roadmap"](#)

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

[Optima 2026 Education Calendar](#)

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ADMINISTRATION

CMS Launches Nationwide Framework to Implement Medicaid Work Requirements (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, June 1, 2026).

Beginning in 2027, certain recipients will be required to meet work, education, community service, or work program participation to maintain Medicaid eligibility. [Read more...](#)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

California Psychiatric Staffing Law Takes Effect: 8 Notes for Health Systems (BECKERS, June 2, 2026)

California enacted new staffing rules for psychiatric hospitals June 1, 2026, establishing minimum nurse-to-patient ratios and financial penalties for facilities that fail to comply. [Read more...](#)

CYBERSECURITY

Healthcare Cyber Risk in 2026: What the Claims Data Actually Shows (Techradar Pro, June 2, 2026)

Cybersecurity is no longer just a technical concern in healthcare. In 2026, claims data confirms that cyber events are translating into real-world patient safety risks and increasing malpractice exposure.

[Read more...](#)

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

In the Age of AI, Interoperability Becomes Core Operating Infrastructure (Healthcare IT News, April 27, 2026)

As AI becomes increasingly embedded in healthcare operations, organizations must strengthen interoperability, data governance, and information-sharing capabilities to support safe and effective use of emerging technologies. [Read more...](#)

HIPAA

Understanding Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Patient Records or “Part 2” (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, February 13, 2026)

Part 2 is a federal law that protects the confidentiality of patient records for individuals receiving treatment for SUDs and establishes when and how those records may be used and disclosed.

[Read more...](#)

Do the New Substance Use Disorder Record Rules Apply to you? (Holland & Hart, February 9, 2026)

Failure to comply with the new SUD confidentiality rule may subject healthcare providers and other recipients of covered SUD records to HIPAA penalties. This article outlines what organizations the rule pertains to. [Read more...](#)

MEDICAL STAFF LEADERS

Should APPs Always Have Physician Supervision (HealthLeaders, June 17, 2026)

Whether advanced practice providers such as physician assistants and nurse practitioners should be under the supervision of physicians is a controversial topic in healthcare. [Read more...](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

Analysis of Serious Medication Error Events Reported to PA-PSRS in 2025 (PSA Patient Safety Authority, May 2026).

An analysis of serious medication error events highlights ongoing risks related to communication, medication processes, and system factors, reinforcing the need for standardized safety practices and proactive error prevention strategies. [Read more...](#)

The Pharmacist’s Role in Medication Adherence in Mental Health and Beyond (Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare, June 2026)

Medication adherence remains a challenge across healthcare, particularly for individuals with mental health conditions. Pharmacists play a critical role in improving medication adherence, enhancing patient outcomes, and reducing medication-related risks. [Read more...](#)

OBSTETRICS

ACOG Releases 2026 Maternal Immunization Schedule (American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, June 10, 2026)

ACOG's release of the 2026 Maternal Immunization schedule provides an updated reference for health care professionals on recommended vaccinations during pregnancy. The schedule is designed to support clinical decision-making, patient education, and preventative care in obstetrical care. [Read more...](#)

PATIENT CARE MANAGEMENT

AI Agents Are Going Off Script. Health Systems Are Figuring It Out in Real Time (BECKER'S June 18, 2026)

The AI agent would occasionally "go off script" when it couldn't confidently find an answer to staff a question. Instead of admitting uncertainty, it would generate something plausible but incorrect, which is one of the core risks of deploying LLM- based agents without proper guardrails. [Read more...](#)

PATIENT SAFETY

What Infection Prevention Gets Right (and Where It Still Struggles) (Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare, June 4, 2026)

While healthcare organizations have made measurable progress in reducing healthcare-associated infections, opportunities remain to strengthen infection prevention practices by addressing overlooked risks associated with shared mobile equipment and environmental contamination. [Read more...](#)

What Clinicians Should Know about Ebola Bundibugyo Virus (CDC Clinical Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA), May 28, 2026)

Learn more about this outbreak, the history and ecology of Bundibugyo virus, what U.S. clinicians should know about preparing for, diagnosing, and managing patients with suspect or confirmed Ebola disease, and how to prevent Ebola viruses from spreading. [Read more...](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT

5 Keys to Governing the Convergence of AI, Cybersecurity and Clinical Risk (American Hospital Association, 2026)

The growing use of AI in healthcare is creating new risk management challenges that extend beyond traditional clinical and operational concerns. This article provides some practical guidance on governing AI while maintaining a focus on patient safety and cybersecurity. [Read more...](#)

PSQH Quick Poll 2026: Taking the Pulse of Healthcare Risk Management (PSQH- Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare, June 18, 2026)

PSQH's 2026 Quick Poll highlights current risk management concerns, with workforce retention leading the list, followed by caregiver burnout, workplace violence, cybersecurity, regulatory compliance, medical errors, and infectious disease outbreaks. The findings provide insight into the evolving priorities and challenges facing healthcare organizations. [Read more...](#)

RURAL HEALTHCARE

The 2026 Definitive Guide to Rural Healthcare (Azalea Health, 2026)

A 2026 rural healthcare guide outlines key issues for rural hospitals and clinics, including funding, reimbursement, service diversification, value-based care, telehealth, AI, cybersecurity, and CMS regulatory updates. [Read more...](#)

TECHNOLOGY

Tech Pros Predict Trends That Will Shape Healthcare In 2026 (Forbes, Jan 16, 2026)

A recent *Forbes* article highlights the technology-driven trends expected to shape healthcare in the coming year. As these advancements accelerate, they bring not only opportunity but also heightened risk exposure with direct implications for patient safety and quality of care. [Read more....](#)

Joint Commission Releases First of Its Kind Exclusively Designed for Healthcare Organizations, Voluntary Responsible use of AI in Healthcare Certification (Joint Commission, June 1, 2026)

Joint Commission has launched a new certification program, *Responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in Health Care* (RUAIH). This program provides a framework for AI governance, safety, and oversight. [Read more...](#)

How Broken Processes Impact AI Implementations (HealthLeaders, June 17, 2026)

AI and automation can support revenue cycle growth; however, inefficient workflows may limit success and amplify existing operational challenges. Process evaluation and realistic ROI expectations are important considerations for sustainable implementation. [Listen here...](#)

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

Mandatory Automated Weapons Screening Coming to California Hospitals (Facilities Dive, May 20, 2026)

As California hospitals prepare for implementation of AB2975, health systems are evaluating the operational, security, and risk management considerations associated with weapons screening programs designed to enhance workplace safety and reduce violence. [Read more...](#)

5 Strategies to Improve Hospital Security on a Budget (Facilities Management Advisor, May 26, 2026)

Hospitals can strengthen workplace violence prevention and security programs through practical, budget-conscious approaches such as staff training, environmental safety measures, technology enhancements, and improved security coordination. [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
<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	<u>Bridging the Administration Barrier: Speaking Patient Safety in Operational Terms</u> Webinar- February 19 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Geri Amori	<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
BSL: 2026 EPL Legal Update	CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle	
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<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	<u>Behavioral Health in the Emergency Department</u> Webinar- May 28 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Heather Theaux, Northbay	<u>Preventing Sexual Abuse and Misconduct: Using Chaperones During Sensitive Exams</u> Webinar- June 18 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Laura Stone, ECRI
CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle		
BSL- Hiring and Onboarding to Prevent Sexual Harassment		CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Incident Reporting Webinar- July 23 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Joan Porcaro, WTW	Workplace Violence Prevention Webinar- August 20 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Scott Zeller, Vituity	2026 CHI Owners Retreat No Webinar
BSL- Managing Internal Investigations	CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle	
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Artificial Intelligence & Cybersecurity Webinar- October 22 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Chad Brouillard, Foster & Eldridge LLP	EMTALA Webinar- November 15 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Robert Bitterman, MD	Wellness Webinar- TBA
CHI Risk Manager's Virtual Huddle		
BSL		

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.