



Risk Management Filter

OPTIMA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE SERVICES

August 2026

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OPTIMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar:

["Improving Hospital Safety via Prompt Behavioral Emergency Care"](#)

August 20, 2026 @ 10:00 – 11:00 am (Pacific Time)

[Optima 2026 Education Calendar](#)

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CYBERSECURITY

Healthcare Ransomware Attacks up 14%: Five Things to Know (BECKER'S, July 10, 2026)

Healthcare organizations worldwide faced 410 ransomware attacks in the first half of 2026, up nearly 14% from the 360 attacks recorded in the second half of 2025. [Read more...](#)

Abbott Investigation Cyberattack Claims from Two Threat Actors (The HIPAA Journal, July 20, 2026)

Abbott is reviewing allegations from two threat groups that claim to have carried out cyberattacks and stolen company data. [Read more...](#)

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS (D&O)

The Board's Role in Quality and Patient Safety (American Hospital Association, February 2025)

This Boardroom Brief highlights the board's role in overseeing quality and patient safety, including safety culture, patient experience, workforce well-being, quality assurance process improvement, and the use of data to drive improvement. [Read more...](#)

FALL PREVENTION

Why Fall Prevention Must be a System-Wide Priority in Healthcare Settings (MedCity News, July 10, 2026)

Falls continue to be a patient safety issue that all hospitals are attempting to address. Taking a more proactive approach systemwide could lead to better outcomes. [Read more...](#)

HIPAA

Fallout From 2025 Cerner Breach Continues: Alabama Hospital Faces Class Action Lawsuit (HealthExec, July 3, 2026)

A class action lawsuit following the 2025 Cerner data breach highlights healthcare organizations' potential liability for third-party vendor incidents. The case reinforces the importance of vendor oversight, timely response, and notification procedures. [Read more...](#)

HIPAA Security Rule Overhaul Delayed: Six Things to Know (BECKER'S HEALTH IT, July 9, 2026)

Federal regulators have delayed a final update to the HIPAA Security Rule until July 2027 while continuing work on other healthcare regulations focused on patient access and interoperability. [Read more...](#)

HUMAN RESOURCES

Healthcare Onboarding Best Practices: A Complete Guide to Employee Retention, Engagement, and Success (Relias Blog, June 8, 2026)

A structured onboarding process involving role-specific training, mentorship and check-ins supports readiness, compliance, retention, and patient safety. [Read more...](#)

2026 Nurse Salary and Job Satisfaction Report (Relias and Nurse.com, 2026)

Nurse salary and job satisfaction data can help healthcare leaders evaluate compensation, benefits, workplace conditions, and retention strategies to support nurse engagement, workforce stability, and patient care. [Download here...](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

Medication Errors and Malpractice: What a Decade of Cases Reveals About Risk Across the Care Continuum (Medical Professional Liability Association, Inside Medical Liability, 2026)

Medication errors continue to pose significant patient safety and malpractice risk. Common issues include medication reconciliation gaps, communication breakdowns, inadequate follow-up, and insufficient patient education. [Read more...](#)

PATIENT CARE MANAGEMENT

Three Skills New Nurses Are Missing on Day One, Per Nurse Execs (BECKER'S, July 2, 2026)

Nurse executives report that new nurses are increasingly less prepared for the complexity of clinical care and often need additional support with communication, critical thinking, and hands-on clinical skills. To learn more about how organizations are addressing this gap, [read more...](#)

PATIENT SAFETY

Insights Report - Improvement in Safety Culture Linked to Better Patient and Staff Outcomes (American Hospital Association and Press Ganey, 2025).

This Insights Report highlights the connection between safety culture, workforce engagement, and patient experience and outcomes. The report emphasizes the value of teamwork, communication, and workforce well-being in sustaining patient safety improvement. [Read more...](#)

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

What is QAPI? Quality Improvement in Healthcare Explained (Relias Blog, June 16, 2026)

Effective Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) programs combine leadership oversight, data monitoring, performance improvement projects, and systematic analysis to support continuous improvement. [Read more...](#)

How CMOs Can Help Lead Quality Improvement Initiatives (Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare, HealthLeaders, July 8, 2026)

Chief Medical Officers can strengthen quality improvement by engaging frontline champions, connecting performance measures to patient outcomes, and ensuring care teams have timely, actionable data. [Read more...](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT

Keys to Success in Actually Reducing Hospital Readmissions (Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare, June, 30, 2026)

To reduce hospital readmissions, hospital CMOs and other senior leaders need to focus on discharge planning, complex care coordination, and the social needs of patients. [Read more...](#)

New Analysis Reveals Leading Causes of Malpractice Claims in Plastic Surgery (Plastic Surgery Practice, July 6, 2026)

Medical malpractice claims involving plastic surgery often relate to technical skill, communication, delayed recognition of complications, inadequate follow-up, and patient dissatisfaction with outcomes. These risks reinforce the importance of careful patient selection, clear informed consent, timely response to concerns, and thorough documentation. [Read more...](#)

RURAL HEALTHCARE

Telehealth and Health Information Technology in Rural Healthcare (Rural Health Information Hub, June 24, 2026)

How can technology help bridge healthcare gaps in rural communities? Explore how telehealth and health IT are transforming access to care, improving patient outcomes, and connecting rural residents with the services they need. [Read more...](#)

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE**Addressing Elder Abuse in Assisted Living and Beyond (Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare, June 17, 2026)**

What can organizations do to improve their hiring processes, fight burnout and attrition, and avoid safety risks and exposure to compliance violations? [Read more...](#)

How WellSpan Health is Realistically Tackling and Measuring Workplace Violence (HealthLeaders, July 17, 2026)

WellSpan Health saw a 62% reduction in Days Away Restricted or Transferred (DART) cases after implementing a new workplace violence prevention strategy. [Watch here...](#)

Related Article: The Workplace Violence Stalemate: What Actually Works (Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare, July 14, 2026)

Learn how WellSpan Health leverages leadership engagement, technology, and performance metrics to prevent workplace violence and improve response times. [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
<u>From Allegation to Action: A Healthcare Response Roadmap</u> Webinar- July 23 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Joan Porcaro, WTW	Improving Hospital Safety via Prompt Behavioral Emergency Care 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 19 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Robert Bitterman, MD	Reclaiming Energy: Practical Strategies for Sustainable Wellbeing in Healthcare Webinar- December 10 @ 10 am – 11 am (Pacific Time) Amanda Magrum
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.