



Risk Management Filter

OPTIMA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE SERVICES

September 2026

Vol. 26, No. 9

OPTIMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

[“Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare & Cybersecurity Risks”](#)

October 22, 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

COMPLIANCE

Compliance (United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General (OIG), 2026)

Looking for reliable compliance guidance? The OIG Compliance Resources page offers practical tools, fraud alerts, advisory opinions, and educational materials to help healthcare providers maintain regulatory compliance and promote ethical, high-quality care at no cost to healthcare facilities.

[Explore here...](#)

HIPAA

We Reviewed 80,300 Healthcare Review Replies. The HIPAA Risk Was Hiding in Plain Sight (The HIPAA Journal, August 18, 2026)

A review of more than 80,000 online healthcare Google review responses found that 26% may have disclosed or confirmed patient information. Organizations should implement safeguards to prevent the unintentional disclosure of protected health information when responding to online reviews.

[Read more...](#)

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Doctor's Note Just Landed in HR's Inbox. Now What? (Shaw Law Group, August 24, 2026)

Learn practical steps employers should take after receiving medical documentation related to an employee's leave of absence request. [Read more...](#)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Your Security Risk Analysis Shouldn't Just Sit in a Drawer (MGMA Health IT Insights, July 27, 2026)

A security risk analysis (SRA) should be an ongoing risk management process, not just an annual compliance exercise. Organizations should use findings to prioritize risks and drive improvements that strengthen the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of ePHI.

[Read more...](#)

MEDICAL STAFF LEADERS

Taking the Mystery Out of Being a Clinician Defendant (CRICO, May 10, 2026)

Medical malpractice litigation can place significant emotional and professional stress on clinicians. CRICO highlights the importance of preparing and supporting clinician defendants throughout the litigation process to help them understand their role, work effectively with the defense team, and better manage litigation-related stress. [Listen here...](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

Medication Errors in Primary Healthcare: A Systematic Review of Their Causes, Prevention and Impact on Patient Safety (Cureus Journal of Medical Science, July 13, 2026)

Medication errors remain a significant patient safety risk in primary care. Strategies to reduce errors include standardized processes, such as discharge summary templates and medication reconciliation, pharmacist involvement, staff education, and a culture of open reporting to identify and address systemic issues. [Read more...](#)

OBSTETRICS

Safe Births are a Team Effort (Crico, July 23, 2026)

A team-based approach to obstetrical care can strengthen communication, shared decision-making, and patient engagement during labor and delivery. This podcast highlights the *Team Birth* model, which includes structured huddles and shared care planning to improve teamwork and reduce communication-related risk. [Listen here...](#)

Nowhere to Go: Maternity Care Deserts Across the U.S. – 2026 Report (March of Dimes, August 11, 2026)

One in three U.S. counties is considered a maternity care desert, with no birthing facilities or obstetric clinicians. More than **5.8 million women and 358,000 infants** live in areas without full access to maternity care, highlighting ongoing risks related to timely prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care.

[Read more...](#)

PATIENT CARE MANAGEMENT

Association of Objective and Subjective Nurse Staffing Metrics with Patient Fall Rate by Unit Type (Nursing Outlook, April 2, 2026)

Nurse perceptions of staffing adequacy may be an important patient safety indicator. In medical-surgical units, nurses' assessments of adequate staffing were associated with lower patient fall rates.

[Read more...](#)

ACOG Publishes Updated Cervical Cancer Screening Guidance (American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, April 23, 2026)

ACOG updated its cervical cancer screening guidance to include patient-collected high-risk HPV testing every three years as an option for average-risk patients ages 30–65. Organizations offering self-collection should have processes in place for patient education, results notification, documentation, and appropriate follow-up. [Read more...](#)

PATIENT SAFETY

Nurses Learn How to Care for Patients – They Should also Learn How Systems Can Fail Them (The Conversation, August 17, 2026)

Patient safety depends not only on clinical knowledge, but also on how systems, technology, workflows, and interruptions affect care. Incorporating human factors principles into nursing education can help nurses recognize system risks and contribute to safer care. [Read more...](#)

PEDIATRICS

CMS Ends Federal Medicaid and CHIP Funding for Sex-Rejecting Procedures for Children and Youth (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, August 11, 2026)

CMS finalized a rule ending federal Medicaid and CHIP funding for certain gender-affirming medications and procedures for minors, effective October 13, 2026. Organizations providing these services should review potential impacts on coverage, patient communication, care transitions, and related policies and procedures. [Read more...](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT

Reading the Room: Behavioral Signals Leaders Can Use to Foster Psychological Safety (Center for Creative Leadership, 2026)

Leaders can strengthen psychological safety by modeling behaviors that support learning, openness, connection, and speaking up. The research provides practical behavioral signals leaders can use to assess team dynamics, encourage employees to raise concerns and share ideas, acknowledge mistakes, and foster an environment where people feel safe to speak up. [Read more...](#)

TECHNOLOGY**The Biggest IT Risk Facing Health Systems in 2026 (Becker's Health IT, January 16, 2026)**

Technology is transforming healthcare at an unprecedented pace, but it is also introducing new risks that can impact patient care, operations, and financial stability. From cybersecurity threats to AI governance challenges, these are the five IT risks CMIOs say every health system should be watching in 2026. [Read more...](#)

FDA Authorizes First-Of-Its-Kind Robotic Blood Draw Device (FDA U.S. Food & Drug Administration, August 19, 2026)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the Aletta, the first standalone robotic blood draw device. Organizations considering this technology should evaluate staff oversight competency, patient selection, infection prevention, emergency response and related policies and procedures. [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.

INSERT CURRENT OPTIMA EDUCATION CALENDAR