



Risk Management Filter

OPTIMA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE SERVICES

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OPTIMA EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar:

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

October 22, 2026 @ 10:00 – 11:00 am (Pacific Time)

[Optima 2026 Education Calendar](#)

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DIRECTORS & OFFICERS (D&O)

The “Nuts and Bolts” of D&O Insurance (The D&O Diary, 2026)

The “Nuts and Bolts” of D&O Insurance series offers practical guidance on D&O coverage, including indemnification, policy terms, exclusions, policyholder obligations, coverage limits, and program structure. [Read more...](#)

Guest Post: Apple Intelligence: Ongoing Risks Associated with AI Development (the D&O Diary, September 10, 2026)

A lawsuit against Apple alleges that company leaders failed to adequately oversee the use of copyrighted and other potentially unauthorized data in training AI models. The case reinforces the importance of board oversight, AI governance, and documented risk management processes as organizations develop or deploy AI technologies. [Read more...](#)

HUMAN RESOURCES

ECRI: Human Resources (August 25, 2026)

ECRI has updated its Human Resources resource collection, providing healthcare organizations with current guidance, tools, and resources to support workforce management and address HR-related risks. Log in required. [Access here...](#)

Hot Midyear Topics for California Employers: Minimum Wage, Workplace Violence Prevention, Form I-9 (HR Watchdog, August 27, 2026)

CalChamber outlines key midyear compliance priorities for California employers, including healthcare minimum wage requirements, annual workplace violence prevention obligations, Form I-9 compliance, and employee expense reimbursement. The update provides an opportunity for employers to evaluate related policies and processes for continued compliance. [Read more...](#)

INFECTION CONTROL**Study Warns on Multidrug-Resistant Yeast on Hospital Workers' Gloves, Gowns – *C. auris* transfer rates topped those of more familiar pathogens (Medpage Today, September 15, 2026)**

Hospitals are facing growing challenges from *Candida auris*, an emerging multidrug-resistant pathogen that can be difficult to treat and contain. New findings reinforce the importance of rigorous hand hygiene, PPE compliance, and environmental cleaning practices. [Read more...](#)

MEDICAL STAFF LEADERS**Change to PA Collaborative Agreement and Scope of Practice Requirement, Effective September 16, 2026, New Requirements FAQ (Alaska State Medical Board, accessed September 16, 2026)**

Effective September 16, 2026, Alaska Senate Bill 89 changes scope-of-practice and collaborative agreement requirements for physician associates (PAs). Under the new law, PAs practicing in certain healthcare facilities may practice without a collaborative agreement, while revised requirements apply when an agreement is required. Healthcare organizations are encouraged to review credentialing, privileging, collaborative agreement, and prescriptive authority processes for alignment with the new requirements. [Read more...](#)

Screening for Colorectal Cancer-Non-Invasive Biomarker Tests (CMS, June 8, 2026)

CMS expanded Medicare coverage for noninvasive colorectal cancer screening tests, allowing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to order covered tests. The updated National Coverage Determination also defines patient eligibility, testing frequency, and performance requirements. The revised coverage provisions provide an opportunity for healthcare organizations to evaluate related policies, workflows, and billing processes for alignment. [Read more...](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY**Are Hospitals Required to Maintain a List of Hazardous Medications? (Joint Commission, June 3, 2026)**

The Joint Commission has updated its guidance on hazardous medication lists. Hospitals must maintain a current list based on the [NIOSH List of Hazardous Drugs](#), review the list at least annually, and assess newly added formulary medications for hazardous-drug status. Updated guidance offers an opportunity for hospitals to evaluate processes for identifying, handling, storing, and disposing of hazardous medications. [Read more...](#)

Immediate Jeopardy Lifted at Ascension St. Thomas Hospital, But Medicare Termination Threat Remains (Becker's, September 16, 2026)

Following the serious medication error involving four surgical patients, CMS identified deficiencies involving medication safety, adverse-event investigation, governing body oversight, and quality improvement processes at [Ascension St. Thomas Hospital](#). Although Immediate Jeopardy has since been removed, the findings highlight the importance of barcode scanning, medication verification, timely investigation of adverse events and near misses, and process for sharing lessons learned across the organization. [Read more...](#)

OPIOIDS**Elimination of the Opioid Sliding Scale is Associated with Improved Opioid Stewardship Metrics (Science Direct: The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety, September 2026)**

Long-standing practices such as opioid sliding scales may be contributing to unnecessary opioid exposure. A recent study found that replacing the traditional approach with a standardized, non-opioid-first strategy significantly reduced opioid use while supporting safe pain management. [Read more...](#)

PATIENT SAFETY**The Patient Safety Leader's Guide to Patient Safety Event Prioritization (Origami Risk, 2026)**

You can't prioritize what you can't see. Patient safety leaders are often faced with a dual challenge: underreporting and difficulty prioritizing the events that are reported. This guide outlines strategies to help healthcare organizations strengthen event reporting, risk-based triage, investigation, trend identification, and corrective action follow-up. [Read more...](#)

The Joint Commission's 2027 Sentinel Event Deadline: What it means for Fall and Pressure Injury Prevention (Neteera, March 25, 2026)

As The Joint Commission aligns its Sentinel Event List with the NQF Serious Reportable Events framework, patient safety accountability is entering a new era. The transition highlights the need for stronger prevention, monitoring, and response strategies for falls and pressure injuries. [Read more...](#)

PEDIATRICS**Preparation for Pediatric Emergencies in the Office: Policy Statement (American Academy of Pediatrics, April 20, 2026)**

AAP issued updated guidance on preparing physician offices and ambulatory settings for pediatric emergencies, replacing its older 2007 guidance. It addresses emergency planning based on patient population, practice setting, proximity to emergency services, equipment, medications, and staff preparedness. [Read more...](#)

Social Media and Youth Mental Health Q&A Portal (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2026)

The American Academy of Pediatrics offers a Social Media and Youth Mental Health Q&A Portal with evidence-based guidance for clinicians, behavioral health professionals, parents, educators, and youth. The resource addresses common questions about social media, screen use, technology, and youth well-being and may be useful for patient and family education. [Explore here...](#)

PERINATAL SERVICES**Measurement and Improvement Strategies for Reduction of Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Committee Statement, Number 27, June 2026)**

ACOG has issued guidance recommending standardized tracking and multidisciplinary review of severe maternal morbidity cases to identify opportunities for system, clinician, and patient-care improvement. Hospitals are encouraged to incorporate SMM case reviews into existing quality and patient safety processes to identify system-level improvements and reduce preventable maternal harm. [Read more...](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT**New State-Mandated Chaperone Requirements for Sensitive Ultrasound Exams Start January 1, 2027 (Health Net, March 16, 2026)**

California's new chaperone requirements for sensitive ultrasound examinations take effect January 1, 2027. Healthcare organizations can use the remaining months to evaluate patient notification, chaperone training, staffing workflows, and documentation processes in preparation for compliance. [Read more...](#)

Providing Chaperones During Sensitive Examinations and Procedures (ECRI, August 26, 2024)

ECRI offers practical guidance to support chaperone policies, staff training, patient communication, and documentation during sensitive examinations and procedures. The resource may be helpful as California healthcare organizations prepare for AB 849 implementation effective January 1, 2027. Log in required. [Access here...](#)

2026 Healthcare Risk Management Foundation Series (WTW, 2026)

WTW's Healthcare Risk Management Foundations Series offers practical education and resources on key healthcare risk management topics, helping organizations strengthen risk prevention strategies, support patient safety, and address evolving clinical and operational risks. [Explore here...](#)

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE**Online Workplace Violence Prevention Course for Nurses (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, July 14, 2026)**

NIOSH offers a free, updated Workplace Violence Prevention for Nurses course covering risk factors, prevention strategies, behavioral warning signs, communication techniques, and post-event response. Healthcare organizations may use the course to support staff education and strengthen workplace violence prevention efforts. [Read more...](#)

Rule Proposed to Improve Protections Against Workplace Violence in Healthcare (Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Agency, July 21, 2026)

Oregon OSHA is advancing proposed workplace violence prevention requirements for healthcare employers. The rules address safety assessments, prevention programs, employee training, incident reporting, and recordkeeping, with final adoption expected in fall 2026. [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.

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