

THE MAGNET™



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GEORGIA'S SOURCE FOR IMPORTANT PHYSICIAN INFORMATION

Risk Management Tips

New Cancer Information Web Site Provides Answers to Patients' Questions

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) unveiled a new patient Web site, www.MyBiopsy.org, in time for Cancer Control Month in April. The site is intended to serve as a resource to people who have been diagnosed with cancer, or who know someone who has been diagnosed with cancer, to help them better understand their illness. According to CAP President Thomas M. Sodeman, M.D., FCAP, "Our goal is to eliminate some of the angst by providing credible information that people can use. The more you know, the more empowered you become about your own health or the health of someone you love." Despite advancements, it is estimated that 2.4 million new cancer cases will be diagnosed in 2007.

Currently, the site includes information on 20 of the most common cancers and cancer-related conditions like: breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, colon cancer, skin cancer and leukemia. It addresses such questions as, "How does the pathologist diagnose cancer?" and "What questions should I ask my doctor?" The pages include answers to questions about a particular disease, what treatment options are available, a glossary of key terms, and pictures of normal and diseased tissues, among other features. All of the information is featured in three formats: HTML, PDF and Microsoft Word®. The CAP plans to post additional topic sheets throughout the year.

CAP, www.cap.org, is a medical society serving nearly 16,000 physician members and the laboratory community throughout the world. It is the world's largest association

(Continued on page 2)

Celebrating 25 Years of Serving Physicians

MAG Mutual Insurance Company passes a silver milestone this month with the 25th anniversary of the start of our company.

We officially opened for business June 1, 1982, and promptly sold our first professional liability policy. This notable achievement came after more than two years of hard work that included:

- Surveying Georgia physicians,
- Electing an all-physician Board and creating an administrative staff,
- Funding the company through the sale of \$1,500 "surplus certificates" and
- Establishing claims and underwriting procedures.

By late spring of 1982, Georgia physicians had purchased more than \$2 million in surplus certificates. Led by Chairman Dr. Charles D. Hollis Jr., MAG Mutual Insurance Company opened its doors in June 1982 and sold its first policy to Dr. Hollis' group, Albany Internal Medicine.

Now, 25 years later, MAG Mutual thanks the thousands of physicians who have put your trust in us. This is a silver anniversary worth remembering.●

MAG Mutual Annual Report Presents Solid Financial Picture



The 2006 MAG Mutual Insurance Company Annual Report and Proxy package was sent to all policyholders on May 23. Please review your company's financial report and see the solid financial standing of your physician-led company. You'll read about the company's 25 years of service to physicians, as well as changes taking place today to make your company even stronger in the future.●



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The new Summer Catalog is available and loaded with extras. In addition to the publications we've offered in the past, the Summer 2007 MAG Mutual Healthcare Solutions, Inc. Catalog offers answers to your "pay for reporting" questions with the new *Medicare's PQRI and Beyond*.

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(New Cancer Information Web Site Provides Answers to Patients' Questions, continued from page 1)

composed exclusively of pathologists and is widely considered the leader in laboratory quality assurance. It is an advocate for high-quality and cost-effective medical care.●

Source: *College of American Pathologists*

*MAG Mutual does not presume to establish any standard of care or establish rules for the practice of medicine. The particular patient-care strategies or range of patient-care strategies mentioned in this article should be tempered by the physician's judgement.

Georgia Supreme Court Reconsiders Statute of Limitations Law

The Georgia Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of *Canas v. Al-Jabi et al.* on May 15. The plaintiff had surgery two months after his birth in 1984 to correct a rare heart defect. It is alleged that he contracted HIV at that time as a result of multiple blood transfusions and blood products he received during and after surgery. From 1991 to March 2000 the plaintiff saw the defendant physicians for his cardiac and general pediatric care. It is alleged that after the plaintiff began seeing these physicians, he displayed symptoms consistent with HIV infection and pediatric AIDS but that both physicians attributed these symptoms to the plaintiff's heart defect. In April 2001, Canas was diagnosed with AIDS.

In December 2001, Canas filed a medical malpractice suit against both physicians. He later added MCG Health Inc. and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The defendants filed motions for summary judgment which were partially granted based on the applicable statutes of limitations and repose.

The parties appealed. The Georgia Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court, but in doing so created a new rule of law. **The Court ruled that where a physician(s) misdiagnoses the same medical condition on more than one occasion, the medical malpractice statutes of limitations and repose can begin again at the time of each such misdiagnosis if there has been a "significant change in manifestations" in the patient's condition.** Georgia's Supreme Court will determine if the appellate court created the law in error.●

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