

# THE MAGNET™



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GEORGIA'S SOURCE FOR IMPORTANT PHYSICIAN INFORMATION

## Risk Management Tips

### May 2006 – June 2006 Seminar Schedule

MAG Mutual and local defense attorneys speak out on "Beating the Medical Malpractice Odds." All seminars begin at 6:30–7:00 PM for sign in and Hors D'oeuvres; the program is from 7:00–8:30 PM. There is no charge to attend, and physicians will receive 1.5 hours of Category 1 CME for attending.

Register online at [www.magmutual.com/seminars](http://www.magmutual.com/seminars); advanced registration is required. For more information call Cheryl Winsett at 1-800-294-5384. ●

### Schedule

#### Thursday, May 11 • Gainesville, GA

Luna's Restaurant  
200 Main Street

#### Thursday - May 11 • Macon, GA

Crowne Plaza Hotel  
108 First St.

#### Thursday - May 18 • Savannah, GA

Hyatt Regency Savannah  
Two West Bay St.

#### Thursday - May 25 • Rome, GA

The Forum  
2 Government Plaza

#### Thursday - June 8 • Atlanta, GA

Double Tree Hotel, Atlanta – Buckhead  
3342 Peachtree Road N.E.

## New Ways to Save on Your Professional Liability Premiums

As a physician-owned and -led company, our goal is to keep your medical professional liability premiums as low as possible. As a result, we are now offering three coverage options you may select to let you reduce your premiums. You should closely consider each of these options to determine if any are right for you.

### Premium Savings Options

### Estimated Premium Savings

- **Defense costs within limits** – modify your policy to reduce your policy limits (total amount available to pay awards or settlements) by the expenses we incur when defending a claim.
- **Professional Organization Separate Limits** – new option to limit the organization's coverage for vicarious liability to non-physician employees.
- **Policy deductibles** – a wider choice of deductibles are available

5%

5% - 15%

(depends on specialty and size of practice)

2% - 8%

(depends on deductible amount)

For more details or to find out if these policy premium savings options are right for you, please call our Underwriting Department at 404-842-5600 or 1-800-282-4882. ●

## No Medical Malpractice Rate Increase for Georgia Policyholders in 2006

MAG Mutual is pleased to announce that, **for the second year in a row**, medical professional liability insurance rates in Georgia will NOT increase. Tort reform is working for Georgia's physicians.

Due to tort reform's positive impact since it became law in 2005, MAG Mutual Insurance Company policyholders renewing between 5/15/06 and 5/14/07 will continue with the same base rates they have today. Your company, MAG Mutual, believed strongly in the importance of tort reform, and we're pleased that predictions of favorable claims experience are happening, and we can bring you this good news. ●

## 2006 Georgia Tort Reform

During the recent legislative session of the Georgia General Assembly, the only tort reform passed was HB 239, Offer of Settlement, which has been sent to Governor Perdue for signature. HB 239 amends the current offer of judgment statute which was included in the 2005 Georgia Tort Reform Act (SB 3). This bill changes the terms "offer of judgment" to "offer of settlement." The bill also clarifies ambiguities in the current law in respect to the party (plaintiff or defendant) making an offer of settlement.

The purpose of the offer of settlement statute is to make parties seriously consider offers to settle disputes. The mechanism to accomplish this is to award attorneys' fees and litigation expenses if the final judgment is not within 25 percent of the offer to settle. The bill provides that if the defendant makes an offer of settlement which is rejected by the plaintiff, the defendant shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses of litigation from the date the offer is rejected, if there is no liability or the final judgment obtained by the plaintiff is less than 75 percent of the offer of settlement.

Conversely, if the plaintiff makes an offer of settlement which is rejected the defendant, and the plaintiff recovers a final judgment in an amount greater than 125 percent of such offer of settlement, the plaintiff shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' and expenses of litigation incurred by the plaintiff from the time of rejection of the offer of settlement. Current law only allows a judge to award attorneys' fees and expenses of litigation if the offer of judgment is 25 percent less favorable than the judgment, but fails to allow the judge to award attorneys' fees and costs of litigation when offer of judgment is 25 percent more than the judgment. HB 239 allows a judge to award attorneys fees and expenses in both cases. ●

## Atlanta's Health-Care Heroes Awards

For the ninth consecutive year MAG Mutual Insurance Company, in conjunction with *The Atlanta Business Chronicle*, is co-sponsoring the Health Care Heroes Awards. The program is scheduled for May 25 at 6:00 PM in the Intercontinental Hotel in Buckhead. MAG Mutual is proud to be part of recognizing the true "heroes" who are committed to the pursuit of excellence in the healthcare field.

To register for the event please visit: <http://events.bizjournals.com/2284>, contact Maggie Edwards at [medwards@bizjournals.com](mailto:medwards@bizjournals.com) or call **404-249-1756**. ●

## In Practice. In Life

**Try our billing service to help improve your cash flow, and we'll waive the \$5,000 installation charge.\***

We're so confident we can help your practice, we're making a special offer. Now through June 30, you'll save the installation charge when you try MAG Mutual Healthcare Solutions, Inc.'s (MMHSI) billing service.

Here are just a few benefits of using the MMHSI billing service:

- Collect everything your practice earns
- Receive a custom billing solution and increase cash flow
- Most clients see an increase in collections
- Get automatic alerts for payer underpayments
- Free practice management system included

To find out how more, call toll-free at **1-888-249-7876** or visit

**[www.magmutual.com/hsi](http://www.magmutual.com/hsi)**. MAG Mutual Healthcare Solutions, Inc. (MMHSI) is here for the financial health of your practice. ●

\*\$5,000 billing service charge waived for new MMHSI billing service customers in Georgia, Florida and North Carolina with an approved 12-month billing services contract by June 30, 2006. Billing service must begin within 90 days of contract approval. Offer ends June 30, 2006 and is limited to the first 20 billing service contracts approved and signed through June 30, 2006.

## REMINDER

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