



GEORGIA'S SOURCE FOR IMPORTANT PHYSICIAN INFORMATION

Civil Justice Reform Update

Sen. Charlie Tanksley, chairman of Georgia's Senate Judiciary Committee, recently introduced an alternative tort reform package to bipartisan Senate Bill 133. It eliminates the call for a \$250,000 cap on the amount of pain-and-suffering damages juries can award in medical malpractice cases. Several other provisions of the original bill were also removed in the new version, including joint and several liability and comparative negligence provisions that would help juries determine, proportionally, who is at fault in a medical malpractice suit and how much each person at fault should pay.

Portions of the bill governing venue did remain intact, which limit the plaintiff lawyers' ability to seek courts known for returning excessive awards (venue shopping). The new

bill provides qualifications for who can be considered as an expert witness.

Meanwhile, the U.S. House of Representatives voted on HR5—the federal medical liability bill. The bill passed the House and now awaits a vote in the Senate later this month. HR5 places a \$250,000 cap on noneconomic damages and no limit on economic damages. It also sets a sliding scale for attorney contingency fees to discourage frivolous lawsuits and establishes criteria to ensure that defendants pay damages in proportion to their fault.

The MAGnet will keep you up-to-date as the civil justice reform bills move through the legislative system. ●

Coding Certification Workshops

Atlanta

May 2, 16 & 30;

June 13 & 27

MAG Mutual Boardroom

Eight Piedmont Center, Ste. 600

3525 Piedmont Road

Adel

May 1, 15 & 29;

June 12 & 26

The Cook County Library

213 E. Second Street

All seminars are from 1:00 -5:00 p.m.

A certified professional coder can help your practice comply with billing and coding regulations and increase revenue. MAG Mutual Healthcare Solutions' coding certification workshops help ensure that your coder is well-trained on the principles of CPT and ICD-9 coding and helps your practice develop specialty-specific documentation and coding tools.

This extensive, 20-hour course is offered in five afternoon sessions. Each class meets the same day every other week over the course of 10 weeks. The cost is \$895 per person for the five-session workshop, the *Physicians Fee and Coding Guide* and AAPC membership. Everyone wishing to participate in this course **MUST** have at least two years of experience in the medical field and have an understanding of CPT, ICD-9 and medical terminology. Space is limited, so please call our educational services coordinator at 800-253-4945 today to register or for more information. ●

Product News

Did you know?

Transferring of Documents Under HIPAA and your Transcription Service

Has your practice addressed security issues with regard to electronic transfer? According to HIPAA, data transfer methods must provide a way to authenticate user identity, must be encrypted during transfer and must provide an audit trail. The healthcare industry, squeezed by cost pressures, is looking to the Internet to reduce overhead and increase efficiency by eliminating paper, fax and overnight delivery of patient data. Yet the industry has been slow to adopt solutions because of stretched budgets, concerns about implementation and training, and uncertainty about HIPAA regulations.

MAG Mutual has provided an affordable solution—certificate-based encryption, backed by a HIPAA-readiness statement that lets healthcare providers move forward with confidence. MAG Mutual Healthcare Solutions has the latest technology for secure transfer of sensitive medical information between physician, hospital and transcriptionist. For more information on MAG Mutual transcription services, please call 770-931-7700 and ask for David Miller.





HIPAA Training Online or Onsite Through MAG Mutual Healthcare Solutions

HIPAA Privacy Compliance Deadline is April 14th, 2003

MAG Mutual Healthcare Solutions, Inc., the physician-owned compliance expert, now offers HIPAA training online or onsite. Whether your preference is online in the privacy of your office or with your office staff in a group setting, MAG Mutual Healthcare Solutions can meet your HIPAA training needs.

Instead of attending a seminar with "the masses," have one of our experts assist you in preparing your office for

HIPAA regulations and help you with the development of a compliance manual. In addition, a MAG Mutual Healthcare Solutions consultant can schedule regular training sessions to keep your office compliant with HIPAA guidelines. Onsite training is available for \$900 for a half day.*

Or if you prefer, you can log on to www.coderscentral.com and take the HIPAA courses quickly, easily and affordably. Our powerful online training

is updated constantly, and your information is encrypted for security. Our online solution also meets the guidelines for training under HIPAA. Online training is available for \$149.95 per student. Visit us at www.coderscentral.com today for a free online demo.

For more information, please call David Miller at 770-931-7700. ●

* Travel costs and manual not included.

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MAG Mutual at Manager's Meetings

MAG Mutual supports countless physicians' organizations, but we also have strong ties to medical group manager associations (MGMA). We will be speaking or exhibiting at the following meetings:

April 12
SAMMA
Savannah, GA

April 22
Greater Atlanta
MGMA
Decatur, GA

April 13-15
South Carolina
MGMA
Myrtle Beach, SC

April 24-27
Georgia MGMA
Chateau Elan
Braselton, GA

April 30-May 2
North Carolina MGMA
Wilmington, NC

MAG Mutual Insurance Agency Contracts with Fireman's Fund

In an effort to provide our MAG Mutual policyholders with the broadest available choices for their personal insurance needs, MAG Mutual Insurance Agency, Ltd. has contracted with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. The addition of Fireman's Fund to Atlantic Mutual and Chubb provides MMIA the ability to work with three of the most prestigious personal insurance companies for your home, automobile and personal umbrella needs.

Springtime is typically a time for house cleaning, fixing up the yard, preparing for summer and planning vacations. Springtime is also an

excellent time to dust off your homeowner's insurance policy and evaluate how your insurance needs have changed over the past several years. Have you done any home remodeling? Purchased any new jewelry items? Installed fire or burglar alarm systems? Your personal risk situation changes all the time, and it is important to make sure your risk protection is up to date.

Give us a call at 404-842-5571 or 800-282-4882, ext. 5571, and we'll send you our personal risk inventory guide. This guide will help you evaluate your personal assets and assist you in getting the "peace of mind" that you are properly protected. ●

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MAG Mutual Insurance Co.
P.O. Box 52979
Atlanta, GA 30355-0979

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