



## Tort Reform Update

Join the Medical Association of Georgia, physicians, patients, office staff, hospital administrators and friends across the state on the steps of the State Capitol in Atlanta on **Friday, November 15** to learn about the “common sense” initiative for professional liability reform.

- **Ensure** your ability to provide quality medical care
- **Protect** your patients’ rights to access quality medical care
- **Preserve** the future of medicine for your patients and their families

In addition, the Medical Association of Georgia’s First Aid Kits on Medical Liability Reform should soon be arriving in your mail! The comprehensive education packet will assist you, your staff and your patients in educating and influencing legislators to support medical liability reform in Georgia. The packet contains a flyer for you to copy and distribute to your patients. It also contains information on the proposed reform legislation, a sample letter to your legislator, as well as grassroots lobbying information to help physicians in this fight for tort reform. For more information about when and where to meet for the Rally at the Capitol or MAG’s First Aid Kits on Medical Liability Reform, contact Lynne Connor at 404-881-5055. ●

## Claims Defense Attorney Seminar

MAG Mutual’s claims department recently sponsored a Defense Attorney seminar at Chateau Élan in North Georgia. Approximately 130 attorneys from seven states (Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee and Virginia) gathered to discuss how better to defend physicians.

The biennial seminar provided our defense attorneys with ideas and better ways to successfully defend our physician/insureds through actual jury data.

At the workshop, MAG Mutual presented a mock trial alleging failure to diagnose pulmonary embolism. The results of the trial were discussed and the attorneys watched videotapes of the mock jurors’ deliberations, which offered a rare glimpse behind the jury room door. ●

## Reminder! Get Out and Vote!

Electing candidates who are physician-friendly is the first step in the battle for professional liability reform, so it is very important for all physicians, medical office personnel and other healthcare workers to vote during the upcoming November 5 elections. **You can make a difference with your vote.**

It is important to know where your candidates stand on healthcare issues before you cast your ballot. Contact your representative and ask how he/she is going to vote on the medical professional liability tort reform issue. Democratic candidates for governor and the U.S Senate are Roy Barnes and Max Cleland respectively; Republican candidates for governor and the senate are Sonny Perdue and Saxby Chambliss. There are 13 congressional districts in the State. You can find out who your representative is by going to the Medical Association of Georgia’s Web site, [www.mag.org](http://www.mag.org).

**You will be casting a vote that may have a positive impact on the kind of care you can provide your patients—and on your professional well-being. ●**

## Product News

### Billing Services Can Aid in HIPAA Compliance

Did you upgrade your practice management system in 1999 to handle “Y2K” problems? Are you now faced with more expenses related to HIPAA, such as costly upgrades or new electronic claims clearinghouse fees? MAG Mutual Healthcare Solutions, Inc. (MMHSI) can help you avoid these expenses. Our Central Billing Office services use *The Medical Manager* system, which is fully HIPAA ready. When you use MMHSI’s billing services, your practice gains access to *The Medical Manager* system at no additional charge, and we pay all those expensive fees for you.

MMHSI’s billing services also assist your practice in becoming more efficient and effective, resulting in improved cash flow. **Our clients achieve an average 9-12 percent increase in annual revenue.** Let MMHSI help you and your practice achieve both HIPAA compliance and better collections by calling us to discuss our billing services. You can reach us at 888-624-6474, ext. 0034. Ask for Julie Martin.

## Georgia Medical Society's Health Care Heroes Awards: A Two-Year Success Story

For the second year, MAG Mutual—in conjunction with St. Joseph's/Candler, Memorial Health University Medical Center and WTOC—sponsored the Georgia Medical Society's Health Care Heroes awards held in Savannah on September 26. MAG Mutual is proud to be part of recognizing the true "heroes" who are committed to the pursuit of excellence in the healthcare field. This year's winners are:

**Peter L. Scardino, M.D.**

Physicians Lifetime Achievement Winner

**Ross Bowers**

Allied Health Professional Winner

**Cameron Deloach**

**Julie Dimond**

Community Outreach Winner

**J. Allen Zow, Sr., M.D.**

Health Care Innovation Winner

Congratulations to the 2002 Health Care Heroes award-winners, finalists and nominees. You've certainly proven yourselves worthy of the word "hero." ●

## It's Time to Order Your 2003 *Physicians Fee & Coding Guide*

MAG Mutual HealthCare Consultants, Inc. is taking advance orders for their 2003 *Physicians Fee & Coding Guide*. This is the same publication that is used by thousands of physicians, hospitals and insurance companies nationwide to establish fees for physician services.

It's easy-to-use and **provides more features than any other fee and coding resource**, such as longer descriptions for each code (so you can **increase revenue** by choosing the appropriate code), thousands of billing tips, hints and information on proper code usage. Also included are:

- Updated fees for private payors for all CPT™ codes, including **hundreds of codes not found elsewhere**
- Medicare's National Average Allowances with geographic calculations
- RBRV values for all CPT codes

MAG Mutual policyholders can purchase the *Guide* for \$127, which is 15 percent off the retail price. **To reserve your copy from the company you own, call toll-free 888-738-7490 today.** ●

## Children are Safest in the Back Seat

According to the Partners for Child Passenger Safety (PCPS):

- A rear-facing infant seat or convertible seat should be used for children up to 20 pounds and 1 year old
- A forward-facing car seat should be used for children weighing between 20-40 pounds and more than 1 year old
- A belt-positioning booster seat should be used for children under 4 foot 9 inches and weighing between 40 and 80 pounds and who have completely outgrown a convertible car seat
- A lap-and-shoulder seat belt should be used for children over 4 foot 9 inches and weighing more than 80 pounds ●

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