

March 28, 2018

## U.S. 'Good Samaritan' Legislation Moves Ahead to Support Medical Liability Protection in Remote Areas

Health care professionals are willing volunteers in the face of natural and other federally declared disasters, but they face significant liability risk when assisting victims outside the state where they are insured for liability.

That's why ISMIE recently sent a letter to members of Congress urging their support of the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act of 2017, which would provide narrowly tailored civil liability protection for medical professionals who volunteer their services during federally declared disasters.

The legislation is gaining steam with bipartisan support in both chambers. Stay tuned for information as this legislation progresses.

**We know how hard you work in your practice.** We also know that many of you travel extensively to volunteer in times of need. ISMIE is working to protect you whenever and wherever you go to provide life-saving medical care in such emergencies.



## Do Your Patients Know What to Do With Unused Medications? National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is April 28

Do your patients ever ask where they can get rid of unused medications? Here's a way to help.

The next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 28. Since 2010, this U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) event – now held twice a year – helps practice management professionals, physicians and patients focus on safe disposal of leftover prescription drugs from the nation's homes and medicine cabinets. Since the first event eight years ago, the agency has collected more than 4,500 tons of prescription drugs from thousands of collection centers set up by local and tribal law enforcement around the country.

Keep in mind that unless you are a licensed collector, you cannot accept these medications for disposal.

What you can do is help patients locate nearby licensed collection centers from the following national databases that share drop-off location data by city, state or ZIP code. Go to [www.ismie.com/takeback](http://www.ismie.com/takeback).

Also, in the coming days, ISMIE will have updated promotional resources for the April 28 event – if you would like a digital kit the moment it's available, email [StephanieVazquez@ismie.com](mailto:StephanieVazquez@ismie.com) with the words "Take Back" in the subject line.

## Do Your Team Members Fully Understand Preoperative Medical Clearance? Check This New ISMIE Resource

Preoperative medical clearance (PMC) can be misleading for physicians because many assume completion of this process can clear them of all legal risks.

In reality, there is no universal PMC process, and inadequate PMC can lead to devastating consequences for both patients and physicians.

ISMIE's Risk Management Library includes a new resource titled Pre-operative Medical Clearance, which provides tips to minimize risks when seeking or providing PMC for surgical procedures. To access the resource, go to [www.ismie.com/pre-op](http://www.ismie.com/pre-op).



**Thinking About an  
Office-Based Risk  
Assessment?  
Don't Miss ISMIE's  
April 4 Webinar**



One of ISMIE's most popular live events is coming directly to you.

**"Preparing for Your Office-Based Risk Assessment"** is being presented as a live webinar from noon-1 p.m. on April 4. ISMIE risk management specialists will discuss what's involved in our 2018 office-based risk assessment with tips for success. All ISMIE policyholders and employed staff are welcome to attend.

All ISMIE policyholders are offered the opportunity to undergo an on-site risk assessment, focusing on principles of good risk management and potential litigation risks you may face. Keep in mind that policyholders found in compliance will be awarded a 5% discount for two policy years.

Don't wait – register for the April 4 webinar and all future 2018 ISMIE live events at [www.ismiemutual.com](http://www.ismiemutual.com).

**Do You Prescribe Biaxin? FDA Says Antibiotic Presents 'Potential Increased Risk of Heart Problems or Death' to Heart Patients**

In late February, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) issued a safety alert for prescribers of the antibiotic clarithromycin – brand name Biaxin – to patients with coronary heart disease.

The FDA is advising caution before prescribing the antibiotic to such patients because of "a potential increased risk of heart problems or death that can occur years later."

The agency based its announcement on a review of the results of a 10-year follow-up study of patients with coronary heart disease from a large clinical trial.

To view the alert, go to [www.ismie.com/FDA](http://www.ismie.com/FDA).



**Build Better Team  
Communication  
Skills at ISMIE's  
Upcoming  
'Communications  
for Staff'  
Live Seminars**



There's never been a greater need for effective, meaningful communications in the practice setting. However, building trust and establishing productive relationships are not always straightforward tasks.

Here's a way to get better.

**"Communications for Staff: The Keys to Building Trust and Improving the Patient Experience"** is one of ISMIE's most popular live seminars and has sessions coming up June 14 in Springfield, September 14 in Lisle, and November 7 in Schaumburg.

It's an interactive session developed specifically for employed staff of ISMIE policyholders that builds empathy, health literacy and numeracy, and rich and lean communications. Breakfast and lunch are served.

For full details and to make a reservation for your team, go to [www.ismiemutual.com](http://www.ismiemutual.com).