

# ISMIE-news



Your Source for News on Medical Liability and Managing Risk

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*They're at it Again ...*

**Update: Three Extra Text Messages Cost NFL Team \$3 Million**

Back in 2012, *ISMIE-news* threw a penalty flag on a lawsuit from an NFL fan who signed up for text message updates from his favorite team. His reason for suing? After saying the service would only send five texts a week ... he received 13 texts in a

## 1. For Easy Medical License Renewal ... Call ISMIE

It's a medical license renewal year, so let ISMIE guide you through the process and avoid the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR)'s service charge. We're standing by to help; just call **800-632-7478** during our regular business hours of **8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.**, Monday through Friday. The cost for your three-year medical license renewal is \$690. Controlled substance licenses, at a cost of \$15 per location, should also be renewed at this time.

When you call, you'll need the PIN noted on the postcard mailed to you from IDFPR. Or, if you don't have the PIN, you may still renew by providing your medical license number, Social Security Number and date of birth; please have these items handy when you call. The deadline to renew is **July 31**.

If you have general questions about license renewal, please contact Audrey Vanagunas, 800-782-4767 ext. 2465, or [send an email](#). We look forward to assisting you!

two-week period.

Somewhere the world's smallest violin is playing ...

Unfortunately, the case gained momentum as a class action lawsuit, and last week a [\\$3 million settlement was reached](#).

Depending on how many superfluous texts an individual plaintiff received, he or she will collect a debit card worth either \$57, \$65 or \$75 ... *in team merchandise, not cash*.

There are legitimate lawsuits and then there's this one: Two years of legal fees, clogged courts, and for what, a new t-shirt? Our culture of jackpot justice needs to be suspended indefinitely!

## **Lack the CME to renew? Let us help**

If you're behind on earning the 150 CME credits necessary to renew your medical license, ISMIE offers plenty of ways to catch up. First, [browse the full list of online courses](#), and then make your choices from topics including opioid misuse and abuse, advanced care planning, limiting the liability of mid-level providers and much more.

Second, make plans for [Emerging Areas of EHR Technological Liability: Will Your EHR Help or Hinder You?](#), an online webinar taking place **May 7 at noon**. Right from your home or office you'll learn to recognize emerging areas of EHR liability, how to minimize the risk of these common pitfalls and understand your legal obligations as an EHR user.

Questions? Please contact ISMIE's Risk Management Division at 800-782-4767 ext. 3300 or [by email](#).

## **2. You Can Lead Congress to Water ...**

... but you can't make them drink.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [projected](#) that a nationwide \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages would significantly reduce health care spending through lower premiums and less defensive medicine.

It's hard to understand why lawmakers continue to ignore medical liability reform in their budgetary and policy decisions, when in addition to the above, tort limits and lower premiums would help alleviate the physician shortages in more litigious areas of the country.

The truth is out there; limiting medical liability not only saves money, but helps patients get the care they deserve. If only our elected officials would stop *treading* water and act.

### 3. All Your Patients Love You — Right?

Avoid being blindsided by simmering issues that can have a negative impact on your practice and your reputation. Check out the latest "Lesson from the Field" [But All My Patients Love Me!](#), an energetic case study that illustrates how patient frustrations built up over time can eventually explode into a serious medical liability lawsuit.

Take the "Lesson" today and discover:

- Five ways to satisfy patients in less time.
- Best practices in patient satisfaction surveys.
- More practical guides for improving patient safety.

In case you missed the previous installments of "Lessons from the Field," please note they're [archived on](#)

[our website](#). Questions? Please contact  
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800-782-4767 ext. 3300 or by email.

Let us know how we can make **ISMIE-news** more useful to you.  
Please send your comments to [e-news@ismie.com](mailto:e-news@ismie.com).