

ISMIE-news



Your Source for News on Medical Liability and Managing Risk

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They're at it Again ...

Attorney Suspended for Laundry List of Legal Offenses

A Minnesota lawyer, [suspended from practicing law by federal judges](#), has a list of infractions that read like a "Greatest Hits" album of legal skullduggery.

1. Opioid Misuse and Abuse is an Epidemic ... Be Part of the Solution

More than [100 patient deaths occur each day in the U.S.](#) due to opioid misuse and abuse. Physicians and other clinicians can play an active role in prevention to resolve this national epidemic.

Start with [ER/LA Opioid REMS: Achieving Safe Use While Improving Patient Care](#), an online course that covers not only the basics of mitigating risks when dealing with opioids, but how prescribing practices and patient education play a crucial role in curbing such abuse.

In particular, those who prescribe extended-release and long-acting (ER/LA) opioid analgesics are in a key position to balance the benefits of treating pain against the risks of serious adverse outcomes including addiction, unintentional overdose and death.

Policyholders can earn a 1% premium discount upon completion, and CME is available. For questions regarding coursework, [email](#) or call the Risk Management Division at 800-782-

They include:

- Cycling the same plaintiffs through different lawsuits.
- Judge shopping by voluntarily dismissing lawsuits, then immediately refiling them.
- Filing more than 30 frivolous lawsuits resulting in over \$300,000 of sanctioning fees.
- Engaging in "brazen delay tactics" to prolong such litigation.

This case demonstrates yet another reason why national legal reform is needed. Otherwise, "creative" lawyers could continue to clog up and misuse the courts.

4767, ext. 3300.

2. New Regs for Physicians on Medical Marijuana, Concealed Carry Laws

Two controversial topics. Two new sets of rules. Here's what you need to know.

Medical marijuana

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has released [proposed regulations](#) regarding Illinois' new medical marijuana law.

These draft rules state that a physician must have an ongoing "bona-fide physician-patient" relationship with the patient and must determine that the patient has a serious or chronic condition that may be helped by the use of medical marijuana. A physician may at his or her discretion certify the patient to obtain a medical marijuana purchase card from IDPH.

Further administrative rules are still under development, and medical marijuana dispensing won't begin for at least several months.

Concealed carry

Under the recent law allowing qualified individuals to carry concealed weapons, physicians and others must report patients who they determine in their professional opinion present a "clear and present danger" to

themselves or others or are "developmentally disabled" *or* "intellectually disabled."

The emergency rules regarding mental health reporting for the Firearm Owner's Identification Card (FOID) are in effect for 150 days and [available online](#).

As always, *ISMIE-news* will keep you informed on any developments that might impact physician liability. Questions? Contact ISMIE's Department of Legal Services at 800-782-4767.

3. Superior Claims Service Marks the ISMIE Difference

With ISMIE in your corner, be assured that in the event of a claim your worries will be kept to a minimum and that you'll receive top-notch service during every step of the claims process. And, unlike some medical liability insurance companies that settle claims on behalf of policyholders without their express approval, ISMIE will never settle a claim *without* your written consent.

If faced with a claim, contact us by calling 800-782-4767. Extended office hours are provided Monday through Friday, or you may leave us a voice mail for an early return call at the beginning of the next business day.

You may also send us an [email](#) or a fax to 312-782-2023 to inform us of a claim or investigation.

Have other questions about ISMIE's claims service? Contact us at 800-782-4767 or [by email](#). If you utilize an insurance broker, you may also wish to contact him or her.

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