

ISMIE-news



Your Source for News on Medical Liability and Managing Risk

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They're at it Again ...

Man Sues for More Money than Exists on Planet Earth

If jackpot justice was like boxing, we'd have a new heavyweight champion: [This New York man](#) is suing for two undecillion - that's a two followed by 36 zeroes - after he was bitten by a dog.

1. Safe Opioid Prescribing Crucial to Curbing Epidemic

While policymakers continue to examine the tangled issues surrounding the widespread misuse and abuse of opioids, it's physicians who are on the front lines of opioid prescribing.

To ensure you're up-to-date on best practices, 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 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-

To put things in perspective, the amount he's demanding is roughly equal the entire U.S. gross domestic product for the next few hundred years.

Aside from setting a new record for lawsuit demand money, this case isn't that different than other frivolous cases where plaintiffs, financially speaking, "shoot for the moon and hope to land among the stars."

Sadly, many times this technique works. That's why damage caps, among other tight rules on lawsuit filing, must constantly be pursued.

Federal lawsuit reform? Now *that* would be priceless.

4767, ext. 3300.

2. Review Rules of the Road for Medical Records Access

The prevalence of laptops, smartphones and tablets means patients can be more involved than ever with their personal medical records. But it's imperative that physicians know who may be authorized to view those patient records, and under what circumstances.

For a quick refresher consult [A Physician's Guide to Medical Record Access and Retention](#), an online resource developed by the Illinois State Medical Society to help physicians be compliant in laws pertaining to medical record access and retention.

Besides learning who specifically can request access to records, the guide also provides a model authorized relative certification form, important notes on the retention of patient records and much more.

Please note: The content of the publications is educational and informational; it is not intended to serve as legal advice.

Questions? Please call 800-782-4767 ext. 6485 or [send an email](#).

3. Deadline Looming for

Medical License, Controlled Substance License Renewal

Call ISMIE for fast assistance with your medical and controlled substance license renewal. By doing so you'll avoid a credit card convenience fee, beat the renewal deadline of **July 31** and check that important task off your to-do list.

The number to call is **800-632-7478** during regular business hours **8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday**.

Here's how physicians can prepare beforehand:

- Have ready the PIN noted on the postcard mailed from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) or your medical license number, Social Security Number and date of birth.
- Have a credit card handy: The cost to renew a three-year medical license is \$690. Controlled substance licenses, at a cost of \$15 per location, should also be renewed at this time.

If renewing online, don't forget the controlled substance license

When processing a medical license renewal on [IDFPR's website](#),

physicians must indicate on the bottom of the page that they'd also like to renew their controlled substance license.

Physicians who did not should [log back into IDFPR's website](#), enter their license number and PIN, and then scroll to "Renewal of Controlled Substance license" at the bottom of the page.

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

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