

ISMIE-news



Your Source for News on Medical Liability and Managing Risk

March 18, 2014

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They're at it Again ...

The Illinois Lawsuit Abuse Crisis ... of 1897

When it comes to lawsuit abuse in Illinois, the more things change, the more things stay the same.

Case in point: [This 1897 article](#) in *The North American Review*

1. Dividends to be Distributed Quarterly Beginning with May 1 Renewals

Here's a heads up on recent changes to ISMIE's dividend distribution process for 2014. In general, the following will apply:

A qualifying policyholder's dividend will be divided into four equal installments and be distributed to all eligible policyholders on a quarterly basis, beginning with policies that renew on or after May 1, 2014. Each dividend installment will apply to each quarterly invoice (renewal, 2nd, 3rd and 4th).

Reminder: Dividend amounts are credits against future premiums only and are not refundable.

Please direct questions about dividend distribution to the Underwriting Division at 800-782-4767 ext. 3350 or [by email](#). If you utilize an insurance broker, you may also wish to contact him or her.

2. Quash Liability Risks with Education, a Practice

entitled "Speculation in Damage Claims," in which the author states: "I have examined the records of the courts having jurisdiction of these cases and of the courts of appeal throughout the State of Illinois. The first fact shown from the records is that there has been a great increase in the number and size of these [law] suits within the past few years."

Sound familiar? Unfortunately, more than 100 years later, an alarming number of lawsuits still flood our courts every year. While this issue has been written about far too long, it's never too late to urge the courts to bounce out meritless lawsuits.

Assessment

Accuracy, speed and consistency - there are plenty of upsides to communicating with patients through EHRs, email and other electronic media.

But there's also a drawback: Increased practice liability.

Our advice? Sign up for [Best Practices for Breach Preparedness and Breach Response](#), a webinar on **March 28, from noon to 1 p.m.**, that covers what to do if your practice experiences a security breach resulting from a compromised electronic communication. By the end of the hour, you'll know how to develop protocols both for preventing *and* dealing with such an electronic security breach.

So grab your lunch on the 28th and log on for this valuable learning activity.

Guarantee a practice assessment for 2014

Not only is a practice assessment a great way to reduce liability, completing a successful one can earn you a two-year, 5% premium discount. So [request your practice assessment](#) by our priority deadline of **April 1** to assure your practice will be assessed in 2014.

Requests received after April 1 will be accommodated on a rolling basis as

availability allows. [More details](#).

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

3. Double Check Your Loss-Free Discount Status Today

ISMIE offers a loss-free premium discount credit to physicians of all practice specialties who have been loss-free for at least three consecutive years. The discount is automatically applied to policies that qualify and can range from 3 percent to 19.5 percent, depending on how many consecutive years you have been loss-free.

The loss-free discount is unique; *it's based on paid losses rather than pending claims*. This means you qualify for a loss free credit even if you have a pending claim, as long as you haven't experienced an indemnity payment for at least the last three years.

Your loss free discount status is reflected on your premium invoice. To access your full loss history report, follow these three easy steps.

1. Login on [ISMIE's homepage](#).
2. Scroll to "Review Your Policy Information" located in the center of the homepage.
3. From there, click on "loss history reports."

For more information, [email](#) the Underwriting Division or call 800-

782-4767 ext. 3350. 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.