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In This Issue

[Legislative Update: No Fix Yet for Medicare Payment Cuts](#)

[Talk is Cheap, Liability Isn't: Solidify Your Communication Skills at April 29 Seminar](#)

[Pay As You Go with Premium Financing](#)

[Enrollment Period for High Limit Disability Program Ends Soon](#)



They're at it Again ...

Frivolous Lawsuits Could Earn Illinois Inmates More Jail Time

You've probably heard the phrase, "don't do the crime if you can't do the time." Well, Illinois' county jail inmates could be doing more time if their "crime" is filing frivolous lawsuits.

[Proposed legislation advancing in the Illinois General Assembly](#) would penalize county jail inmates with more time in jail if,

Legislative Update: No Fix Yet for Medicare Payment Cuts



Congress adjourned for recess *without* reaching an agreement on [H.R. 2](#), the *Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act* which would finally eliminate Medicare's Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula once and for all. Recently, the legislation passed the House with a large bipartisan majority, but the Senate did not vote.

Therefore, April 1 has kicked in without a permanent solution or even a "temporary doc fix." In other words, physician services provided on and after April 1 may be subject to a devastating slash of 21 percent, unless the cut is reversed when Congress reconvenes in mid-April.

CMS: Hold claims through April 14

In the meantime, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is instructing its carriers to hold any claims for services provided on April 1 and beyond for a period of 10 business days.

Physicians are encouraged to either continue charging the current 2015 rates for April dates of service or defer submitting claims until after final action on the legislation.

Urge Illinois Senators Durbin and Kirk to immediately address this issue upon their return from recess; send a message by phone at **800-833-6354** or [by email](#).

according to the bill, "the court makes a specific finding that a pleading, motion, or other paper filed by the prisoner is frivolous." The bill is modeled after an Illinois law that applies to state prison inmates.

Let's hope lawmakers realize it's more than just prison inmates who clog up the Prairie State's court system. *All* frivolous lawsuits should be bounced from the dockets.

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Talk is Cheap, Liability Isn't: Solidify Your Communication Skills at April 29 Seminar



Communication breakdowns—whether with patients, colleagues or staff—continue to be a significant factor in medical liability lawsuits. Boost your proficiency in this area by attending [Fellowship Fundamentals: Communication](#) on **April 29 in Chicago**.

This live, interactive program will help policyholders to further develop techniques on building rapport and expressing empathy with physician colleagues, health care team members and patients. The course pinpoints specific instances, such as consultations, hand-offs and discharges, when communicating important patient information is imperative.

CME offered; policyholders may earn a 1% premium discount and fulfill a Managing Risk Fellowship requirement by taking this seminar. [Sign up today](#).

Questions? Please contact ISMIE's Risk Management Division at 800-782-4767 ext. 3300 or email riskmanagement@ismie.com.

Pay As You Go with Premium Financing

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Start with a low initial payment—just 8 percent of the total premium—and then pay off the remainder in 11 equal monthly installments.

Learn more about this flexible premium financing program by calling ISMIE's Underwriting Division at

800-782-4767 ext. 3350 or [send an email](#). If you utilize an insurance broker, you may also wish to contact him or her.

Enrollment Period for High Limit Disability Program Ends Soon



Disability Resource Group (DRG) is partnering with ISMIE to offer a high limit disability program exclusively for policyholders. Now you can get the income protection you need and have peace of mind—at a discount.

Enrollment for this coverage is only available until **May 13**, so hurry and protect your greatest asset—you!

For more info, [visit this exclusive website for policyholders](#), contact DRG directly at 800-945-9719 ext. 320 or send an email to info@drqdi.com.

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