



Important Insights from 3,500 ISMIE Risk Assessments



New ISMIE White Paper Reveals Top Risk Issues

When you spend as much time as we do evaluating risk management considerations at medical practices of all shapes and sizes, you're bound to learn a few things, to say the least.

ISMIE is sharing some of those lessons in a new white paper, titled [Managing Risk, Maximizing Safety](#). Analyzing data from nearly 3,500 voluntary [risk assessments](#) with policyholders in 10 states, we look at common risk issues found across all specialties,

with deeper dives into several specialty areas that present unique challenges. For example, while documentation of communication with patients and caregivers is an issue across all specialties and practice settings, emergency physicians tend to experience breakdowns at the time of discharge.

This white paper can give you a significant head start on reducing risk in your practice, but to learn more about how your unique circumstances affect your risk profile – and how you can better protect yourself against liability – there is no substitute for a risk assessment of your own. Our risk assessment process starts with the fundamentals of thorough documentation, sound communication, and effective tracking and follow-up systems, and progresses through a series of other key practice-specific principles drawn from ISMIE's decades of experience and proprietary claims data.

For more information or to request a risk assessment, contact our risk management team by [email](#) or by phone at 800-782-4767 ext. 3300.



Even though Medical Cannabis is Legal in Illinois, the Drug is Illegal Federally – Which Can Expose You to Liability Risk

Last week the United States House Judiciary Committee approved a reform bill that moves [cannabis closer to federal legalization](#).

Here in Illinois, medical professionals have already been certifying medical cannabis for patients for several years and recreational use of the drug

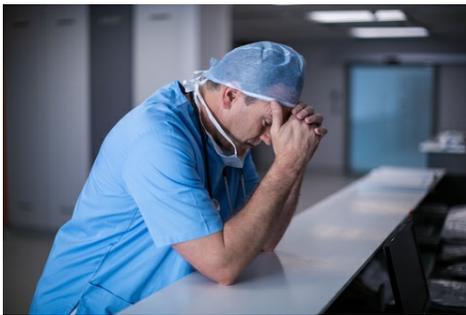
becomes legal on Jan. 1, 2020. But as long as cannabis remains illegal at the federal level, this conundrum of “state legal – federally illegal” **exposes healthcare professionals to liability risks.**

ISMIE is offering a webinar, [The Highs and Lows of Cannabis Legalization](#), covering liability risks and what you should do now to mitigate them. The webinar will take place **Dec. 10, 2019, from noon to 1 p.m.** and be presented by Andrew A. Monte, MD, PhD, who has been practicing in Colorado, where cannabis has been legal since 2014.

Policyholders and their staff may join the webinar for no cost. Eligible clinician policyholders may earn a 1% premium discount.

Want even more information? Access ISMIE’s risk management resource, [Medical Cannabis](#), which covers potential risks, tips for certifying patients for medical cannabis, and additional resources.

If you have questions, please contact the ISMIE risk management team by [email](#) or phone at 800-782-4767, ext. 3300.



A Safer Error Reporting Environment Leads to Better Patient Care

It would be easy to assume that building an effective team means clamping down on errors, especially in the healthcare setting where the stakes are high. But studies show that higher-performing hospital teams actually reported a *higher* number of errors than their lower-performing counterparts.

[According to Amy Edmondson](#), a professor at Harvard Business School, the key is creating a “psychologically safe” environment, in which people feel free to report errors without retaliation or judgement.

Edmondson has [studied the impact](#) of psychologically safe error reporting environments in both hospital settings and the airline industry. She found catching, correcting and reducing errors in a team setting requires open and honest communication at every level of the organization’s hierarchy. She also notes that successful teams use motivation, not fear, to inspire higher standards.

It can be difficult to build that kind of culture with the ever-present threat of medical litigation. But ISMIE is here to help with an extensive library of resources, from [disclosing unanticipated outcomes](#) to [process improvement](#) and [healthcare team communication](#). And know that if you are faced with a lawsuit, [ISMIE has your back](#).

For more information, contact our risk management team by [email](#) or by phone at 800-782-4767 ext. 3300.

2020 Annual Meeting and Elections

ISMIE Mutual Insurance Company will hold its next annual meeting in April 2020. At that time, a majority of ISMIE policyholders, represented at the annual meeting in person or by proxy, will elect fellow policyholders to positions on the ISMIE Mutual Board of Directors.

An ISMIE Mutual policyholder interested in being considered for the ISMIE Mutual Board should immediately contact our Chief Operating Officer to be advised of the 2020 nomination criteria and deadlines. Call 312-580-2493 or 800-782-4767 ext. 2493, or send an [email](#).

Happy Holidays from ISMIE

ISMIE office holiday hours

November Thursday 28 closed	November Friday 29 closed	December Tuesday 24 closed	December Wednesday 25 closed	December Tuesday 31 closed	January Wednesday 1 closed
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Know that www.ismie.com is always open with helpful policy info and learning opportunities.

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