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Contact: Eric R. Anderson, Director of Public Relations and Marketing
301.947.9000 or eanderson@piaa.us

Hospitalists and Medical Professional Liability Risk Management to be Focus of PIAA Webinar

Rockville, MD – November 12, 2012 – The impact of hospitalists on medical professional liability (MPL) risk management and patient safety will be the topic of a webinar hosted by the Physician Insurers Association of America (PIAA) in December, as part of its new webinar series.

“The hospitalist specialty is the fastest-growing area of practice in the United States. So these physicians play an increasingly important role to those responsible for medical professional liability programs and insurance,” said Brian K. Atchinson, president of the PIAA. “This webinar will explore the key drivers of the hospitalist movement in our healthcare system and discuss the impact of this trend and the medical liability issues it raises.”

The webinar, Insuring Hospitalists: Maximizing Potential, Minimizing Risk, will take place on Wednesday, December 5 at 2:00 p.m. EST. The featured presenter, John R. Nelson, MD, FACP, is a founder of the hospitalist movement and a preeminent expert in the field. Nelson, medical director, hospitalist practice, Overlake Hospital Medical Center in Bellevue, Washington and a hospitalist program consultant, will provide an in-depth picture of today’s hospitalists and discuss the challenging liability and relevant patient safety issues that are unique to this field of practice. He will examine the future of this growing specialty area, opportunities inherent in the hospitalist trend, and explain why it may necessitate some innovations for those who handle the medical liability risk management needs of medical professionals and institutions.

In addition, the webinar's host, P. Divya Parikh, director of research and loss prevention at the PIAA, will share some recent findings from the PIAA Data Sharing Project, the world’s largest independent MPL research database.

“There are some particular risk factors to consider in insuring hospitalists,” said John R. Nelson, MD, FACP, MHM. “Some facilities have insufficient hospitalist staffing resulting in excessively high workloads, for example. Excessively high workloads risk adverse patient outcomes, due to increased potential for clinical errors and accompanying poor documentation. Medical liability insurers need to be aware of these and other unique risk management elements that pertain to hospitalists.”
The webinar is open to PIAA members as well as the general public. To register, go to www.piaa.us and click on “PIAA Webinars” in the Meetings and Education section.

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*The PIAA is the national insurance trade association representing medical professional liability insurance companies, risk retention groups, captives, trusts, and other entities. PIAA members insure more than 60 percent of America’s private practicing physicians and 1,500 hospitals as well as dentists, nurses and nurse practitioners, and other healthcare providers.*