

INTEGRITY LEGAL NURSE CONSULTING PDX NEWSLETTER

Helping you understand medical issues,
giving you more time to practice law.

WISHING EVERYONE THE VERY BEST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

- *MOBILE DEVICES AND MEDICINE
- *HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS
- *NEW SERVICE - RECORD RETRIEVAL
- *THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC
- *PROBLEMS FACING THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
- *PREVENTING THE FLU



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- SERVICES INCLUDE:**
- * Providing medical record evaluation, analysis and summaries
 - * Screening cases for merit,
 - * Developing chronology of events and timelines,
 - * Providing cost projections
 - * Coaching your client and attending DMEs,
 - * Locating and vetting expert witnesses,
 - * Serving as TE
 - * Record retrieval

THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF MOBILE DEVICES IN THE MEDICAL FIELD

The popularity of mobile device use among physicians brings both exciting innovations and concerns as ease of information access increases

- Digital innovations allow patients to take a more active role in their own healthcare, increasing their awareness and ability to monitor their condition.
- Smart phones and tablets provide physicians with ease and speed when recovering medical records, test results, and treatment plans.
- Mobile devices also allow for alternative methods of communication, increasing patient-provider dialogue.
- However, the accessibility of mobile devices increases the chances of security breaches, putting patients' privacy in danger.
- The plethora of healthcare apps available leads to higher numbers of ineffective self-diagnosing methods.
- Long-distance medicine cannot always successfully assess a patient's condition as effectively as an in-person visit.

We are skilled at analyzing medical processes and detecting deviation from best practice.

UNDERSTANDING HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS (HAIs)

The most common complications of hospital care, healthcare-associated infections cost tens of thousands of lives and billions of dollars annually

- Many medical and surgical procedures require invasive devices that can carry viral or bacterial infections.
- Infections associated with specific indwelling devices (ventilators, catheters, and central lines) and surgical site infections account for approximately half of all HAIs.
- Central line-associated bloodstream infections, ventilator-associated pneumonia, and catheter-associated urinary tract infections are some of the most severe complications patients can encounter.
- Besides the danger they pose to individual patients, HAIs can be transmitted between different health care facilities and staff members.
- Though proper prevention education is relatively simplistic, HAIs are still a serious problem in the U.S., indicating that facilities need to invest more in medical staff training to reduce this problem

Our nurses are capable of categorizing and reviewing medical records to determine the causes of HAIs and other healthcare missteps.

NEW SERVICE * RECORD RETRIEVAL

Stop spending your time retrieving your client's medical records.

We have dedicated Account Managers who will take care of each request from order entry to delivering the records to our online platform.

*Any kind of record * Real-time order status * OCR searchable records
Call us today to learn more and to demo our NEW record retrieval platform!*

OPIOID OVERDOSES - CLAIMING 78 LIVES A DAY

TESTIMONIALS

"When we use Wendy, we get a thorough and complete report. She finds issues that I had never considered and her thorough analysis is worth every penny."

[Kelly L. Andersen, Esq.](#)

"Thank you very much for your hard work on the case thus far - what I learned with you will surely help us out at mediation."

[Kristen West McCall, Esq.](#)

"Very nice report, the report will be useful to cut and paste into my settlement demand."

[Jan Kitchel, Esq.](#)

"Thank you so much for your timely response to this case. We appreciate what you do."

[Katie Ireland, Esq.](#)

"Wendy provides prompt, professional, courteous service with a ready smile that sets clients at ease. She lasers in on the medical issues that matter most to highlight them for legal review as we consider how to best represent our medical cases to the triers of fact."

[Jenna Harden, Esq.](#)

"Thank you for the hard work and detailed report."

[Judy Snyder, Esq.](#)

"This is awesome! You are well worth the money! Thanks Wendy."

[Andrew Mathers, Esq.](#)

"Because of several large cases going on at the same time, I had to find someone to do the medical review that my legal assistant normally does. I contacted Wendy and hired her for the job. The review was in the format and style I requested. It was every bit as thorough, perhaps even more, than my legal assistant. It was exactly what I needed. I would not hesitate to use Wendy again, in fact I am."

[Jim Dwyer, Esq.](#)

"You are truly a delightful person, and a consummate professional."

[Sara M. Winfield, Esq.](#)

"Thank you for your speedy work and comprehensive spreadsheet."

[Jim Nelson, Esq.](#)

"You did an excellent job."

[Michael H. Bloom, Esq.](#)

"Thanks so much, will definitely use you for another criminal case."

[Zack Stern, Esq.](#)

Prescription drug addictions have increased significantly in recent years, yet little help is being given to those suffering

- More people died from drug overdoses in 2014 than any year previously, and 6/10 of overdose deaths involved an opioid.
- More than 650,000 opioid prescriptions are dispensed daily in the U.S., and what may start out as a simple cure to back pain can turn into a lifelong struggle with an unexpected opioid addiction.
- The health and social costs related to prescription opioid abuse each year is \$55 billion.
- Physicians prescribe painkillers so frequently because they're a simple fix, they increase patient satisfaction, and their addictive properties were not fully understood until recently, due to aggressive marketing campaigns by the producers of such drugs as Oxycontin.
- When drug-seekers show up in the emergency department, they are immediately pushed out, allowing a documented illness to essentially go untreated, and while they may be encouraged to seek detoxification or rehabilitation, spots within programs are not always available, or insurance may not cover them.

<http://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/Factsheet-opioids-061516.pdf>

We are adept in determining best practice regarding prescriptions when advising those representing physicians and patients alike.

PROBLEMS FACING U.S. EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Between workplace violence, overcrowding, and administrative failures, the ED's high-stress environment poses unique challenges in the U.S.

- The CDC reports that the number of patients in emergency departments across the country has risen by 20% in the past decade, yet the number of available emergency centers has fallen by 15%.
- ED nurses are more likely than other types of nurses to develop health conditions, such as PTSD, due to the nature of their work.
- With the large influx of unstable patients under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or suffering from psychiatric disorders, ED nurses frequently encounter verbal abuse, threats, and physical assault.
- The American Hospital Association found that 62% of hospitals feel they are over operating capacity.
- After the Affordable Care Act went into effect, previously uninsured individuals were able to visit an emergency room without a co-pay, and boarding numbers across the U.S. skyrocketed.
- Despite the fact that the ED is not an appropriate place to care for many patients, administrators feel increasingly pressured to expand their ED capacity to avoid losing market share to their competition.
- Mega healthcare corporations often fail to communicate effectively at the local level, seeing all EDs in their system as comparable, even when vast differences between them exist.

Our nurses are skilled at sorting out risk factors and advising you on how best to approach complicated medical settings.

PREVENTING THE FLU

Never underestimate the importance of cleanliness and simple, cheap prevention measures

- Take the time to get your annual vaccination - it will prevent you from catching the most common flu viruses and those around you will not be at risk of contracting the flu from you.
- If you are sick with flu symptoms, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.
- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth - germs spread this way.
- Antiviral drugs can be prescribed to treat the flu if you do contract it. Those at high-risk for complications (individuals with chronic heart disease, asthma, or diabetes, for instance) should seek such prescriptions to avoid hospitalization.

NEWSLETTER RESOURCES

Please feel to contact us for the newsletter's sources, as all information is thoroughly explored and researched.