

Professional Liability Costs for Hospitals and Physicians Continue to Rise, Outpacing Inflation

Bio-Medicine.Org

CHICAGO, Oct. 12 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Hospitals and physicians should prepare for increasing [liability costs](#) [1], according to the 2010 [Hospital Professional Liability and Physician Liability Benchmark Analysis](#) [2] created by [Aon Risk Solutions](#) [3], the global [risk management](#) [4] business of [Aon](#) [5] Corporation (NYSE: [AON](#) [6]), in conjunction with the [American Society for Healthcare Risk Management](#) [7].

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In its 11th year, the study confirms an emerging change in the liability environment: The frequency of claims against hospitals has entered a growth phase. Combined with continued claim severity growth, this uptick is expected to drive liability costs up at a rate higher than general inflation.

U.S.-based [hospitals](#) [10] are expected to face more than 44,000 claims arising from incidents occurring in 2009, according to the report, with anticipated costs exceeding \$8.6 billion. Claims resulting from incidents in two key hospital risk areas, the [obstetrics unit](#) [11] and the [emergency department](#) [12], make up more than a quarter of that e
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[1] <http://www.bloomberg.com/.../medical-liability-costs-make-up-2-4-of-u-s-health-spending.html>

[2] <http://www.aon.com/hplreport>

[3] <http://www.aon.com/risk-services/default.jsp>

[4] <http://www.aon.com/about-aon/contact-us.jsp>

[5] <http://www.aon.com/default.jsp>

[6] <http://studio-5.financialcontent.com/prnews?Page=Quote&Ticker=AON>

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[10] <http://www.aha.org/aha/resource-center/Statistics-and-Studies/fast-facts.html>

[11] <http://www.citytowninfo.com/.../hospital-staff-nurse-in-high-risk-obstetrics-unit>

[12] <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/ervisits.htm>

[13] <http://www.bio-medicine.org/medicine-technology-1/Professional-Liability-Costs-for-Hospitals-and-Physicians-Continue-to-Rise--Outpacing-Inflation-11661-1/>