

Boulder County Medical Society

HeartBeat

6676 Gunpark Drive, Suite B, Boulder, CO 80301 - (303) 527-3215, bcmedsoc@aol.com - www.BCMS.net

February 2009

Boulder County Medical Society

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In This Issue

President's Message	1
Save These Three Dates	2
New Members	2
Skolnik Bill - MUST READ	3
BCMS Physician's Directory	4
401K Worries	4
Disaster Preparedness	5
Medicine's Day at the Capitol	6
Financial Seminar	7
UHC Challenge Deadline	7
Happy Doctor's Day	7
Calendar	8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Christine Lamoureux, MD

As we head into 2009, this year promises to be one of reflection, recalibration, and renewed strategy. Many thanks to those of you who responded to the BCMS survey, both at the annual Greenbriar meeting in October and through November newsletter. Your responses were informative and thought-provoking, and will help serve as a platform for BCMS activities this year.

Respondents to the survey indicated that they prefer communication from BCMS remain in the form of email and newsletter. Please update your contact information if you have not been receiving our communications.

Some physicians polled were not familiar with the BCMS Physician's Directory personal physician listings, advertising or the BCMS website. Let me take this opportunity to remind you of these great resources. The directory has the most up-to-date contact information for BCMS physicians and is extremely user-friendly. It is also now available to patients, and has been distributed throughout many physician offices this month.

Many of the physicians surveyed had not attended the CMS annual fall meeting. This meeting highlights the culmination of efforts throughout the year by component medical societies and CMS. Any BCMS/CMS member can attend, and may be seated as an alternate delegate with voting privileges if a BCMS delegate is not in attendance. Resolutions written and presented by individuals and/or by a component society are voted upon at this meeting, and may become official CMS policy. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged. This is a forum where your voice will literally be heard.

According to the survey, medical/legal liability and healthcare reform were among the most important subjects that members wanted BCMS to address. The BCMS/COPIC January 22 dinner meeting "Straight Talk on the Skolnik Act" presented by Nicholas Ghiselli, Esq. was very well attended and lead to lively discussion. It was encouraging to see so many concerned physicians present a spectrum of opinions and insight into this piece of legislation (see article on page 3 for further details). I was somewhat concerned, however, that for many who attended, this was their first exposure to the subject, and I



Christine Lamoureux, M.D.
BCMS President

sensed many felt they had arrived late to the table and were disempowered. I would encourage you to utilize resources available to you throughout the year (BCMS/CMS websites, emailings, BCMS Heartbeat newsletter, etc) to keep abreast of issues which may be coming down the pipeline so that you can contribute more effectively early on. Your BCMS and CMS leadership also encourage questions and dialogue.

To those who provided their names and expressed interest in becoming more involved with BCMS activities, there are often committees which need the input of interested physicians throughout the year. For example, Dr. Julie Ansell has recently joined the CMS Council on Legislation. Upcoming events targeted for your continued involvement include a COPIC sponsored Brunch Meeting entitled "The Business of Medicine--Practice Financial Seminar" on April 25th at the Boulder Millennium Hotel, and a Legislative Dinner with the Boulder County Bar (date to be determined).



SAVE THESE THREE DATES -- MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Sonnentalp Resort of Vail

Saturday and Sunday, MAY 2-3
CMS SPRING CONFERENCE
SONNENTALP RESORT IN VAIL



Wednesday, JULY 29
BOULDERS DINNER THEATRE
PRODUCTION OF "ANNIE"



Friday - Sunday, SEPTEMBER 11-13
DELEGATES AND INTERESTED PHYSICIAN MEMBERS!
CMS ANNUAL MEETING IN BRECKENRIDGE
Beaver Run Resort
Phone (800) 825-7500

WELCOME! - Please Welcome These New Members

Matthew Brett, M.D.
Family Practice
Milestone Family Medicine
303 Main Street, Suite C
Lyons, CO 80540
303-823-6535

Joshua Emdur, D.O.
Family Practice (Hospitalist)
Boulder Valley Pulmonology
1000 Alpine, Suite 100
Boulder, CO 80304
303-442-2150

Karin Hagerman, M.D.
Pediatrician
Boulder Medical Center
4745 Arapahoe, Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80303
303-938-4750

Suzanne Simmons, M.D.
Internal Medicine (Hospitalist)
Boulder Valley Pulmonology
1000 Alpine, Suite 100
Boulder, CO 80304
303-442-2150

Donald Singer, M.D.
Pathologist
1625 Juniper Street
Longmont, CO 80501
303-485-0977

Eric Vanzura, D.O.
Family Practice (Hospitalist)
Boulder Valley Pulmonology
1000 Alpine, Suite 100
Boulder, CO 80304
303-442-2150

Ming-Jay Jeffrey Wu, M.D.
Emergency Medicine
Avista Emergency Physicians
100 Health Park Drive
Louisville, CO 80027
303-673-1003

BCMS
WELCOMES
YOU!

DEDUCTION FOR YOUR TAXES RE: DUES

Please note that the following is a breakdown of deductibility of your medical society dues. Association dues used for lobbying purposes are **NOT** deductible.

- As a result, 12% of your Colorado Medical Society dues are NOT deductible.
- 100% of your BCMS dues ARE deductible.
- Neither your state nor county dues may be used as a charitable donation.



MICHAEL SKOLNIK MEDICAL TRANSPARENCY ACT & STATE MEDICAL LICENSE RENEWALS

The medical licenses for all physicians expire on May 31 of each odd numbered year. So 2009 is a renewal year. Renewal applications are automatically mailed out to the most current address you have provided to the Board of Medical Examiners.

- ✓ Judgments, settlements and arbitration awards for medical malpractice claims.
- ✓ Refusal by an insurance carrier to issue medical liability insurance.

Please be advised that you must complete your on-line profile before May 31st or your license will NOT be renewed. If your address has changed in the past two years, as it is your responsibility to notify the BME.

It is imperative that physicians are aware of the **new reporting requirements** that must be followed regarding the **Michael Skolnik Medical Transparency Act** that requires **all Colorado physicians disclose specific information to the public**, including:

- ✓ Name, Aliases, Current Address, Telephone number.
- ✓ Information regarding all medical licenses ever held.
- ✓ Current Board Certifications.
- ✓ Practice Specialty (ies).
- ✓ Affiliations with hospitals and health care facilities.
- ✓ Current ownership interests in businesses.
- ✓ Current employment contracts.
- ✓ Public disciplinary actions against a medical license.
- ✓ Agreements and Stipulations to temporarily cease medical practice.
- ✓ Involuntary hospital or health care facility privileging actions.
- ✓ Involuntary surrender of a DEA registration.
- ✓ Criminal convictions or plea arrangements for felonies and crimes of moral turpitude.

"As a physician, I must remind you that even though we may or may not agree with what the Skolnik legislation requires us to report upon when renewing our licenses by May 31, 2009, we are legally required to do so this renewal cycle. Start gathering the pertinent information now, and carefully save the information for future use"

BCMS President
Dr. Christine Lamoureux

"As a physician, I must remind you that even though we may or may not agree with what the Skolnik legislation requires us to report upon when renewing our licenses by May 31, 2009, we are legally required to do so this renewal cycle. Start gathering the pertinent information now, and carefully save the information for future use" says BCMS President Dr. Christine Lamoureux.

Although CMS is working with the BME to modify some of the reporting requirements prior to the license renewal deadline, physicians should go ahead and begin gathering the information needed to complete your online profiles ASAP as this may be more time consuming than you anticipate.

GATHER THE INFO ABOVE AND THEN:

- 1) Go to:
<http://www.dora.state.co.us/medical/>
- 2) You will see the "Licensee/Applicant Services" box, look under that box for the

SECOND blue heading "Medical Board has Implemented Medical Transparency Act" and click on the link "Visit this web page for more information." You will then be taken to the "Medical Board Implementing Physician Profile Requirements".

If you have any difficulty after reading through this information, please call Tracey Martinez, Physician Profile Administrator at 303-894-5965 or email her at: tracey.martinez@dora.state.co.us



L to R: Dr. Mark Laitos, CMS President-Elect; Dr. Christine Lamoureux, BCMS President; and presenter Nick Ghiselli, Esquire. January 22, 2009 Skolnik meeting.



PHYSICIAN'S DIRECTORY 2009-2010 THANK YOU!

LOOK FOR THE NEW BCMS PHYSICIAN'S DIRECTORY
for 2009-2010
Just delivered to your office in January 2009!



IT'S HERE! Chock full of individual physician listings, helpful medically-related information for Boulder County, and a handful of high quality advertisements. Look for the blue cover, delivered to your offices early in January. Should your patients or staff desire additional copies, there is a list on page 11 of where complimentary copies may be obtained. For bulk quantities, we are happy to provide them from the BCMS office.

Please note that we did not have room to print the full list of fax numbers, but all you have to do is call or email us, and **we'll send you the very latest list of fax numbers.** Additionally, many physicians did not want their fax numbers printed for use by non-

physicians. So now, you'll have the best of both worlds - updated fax numbers released only to BCMS member offices.

This same physician pictorial information is being uploaded to our bcms.net website, thank you for your patience as this time consuming task is nearing completion.

THANKS to each of you (all 433 of you) that purchased a two-year pictorial listing and supported this community resource Directory. We hope it is a Directory that you will be proud of.



ARE YOUR EMPLOYEES WORRIED ABOUT YOUR 401K? SHOULD YOU BE?

As many plan participants are growing increasingly despondent about their retirement plan's investment returns, many practices are re-assessing the investment options available to their employees. As year-end statements land in many mailboxes this month, far more individuals have decided to become more conservative during these turbulent days in the stock market.

Unfortunately, many participants have "thrown in the towel" and put 100% of their money into a money market option. As the yields on money market funds are in the 1% to 2% range, this isn't always the participant's best option.

Consider a Stable Value fund as a "cash" alternative. If you are not offering one, ask your provider for a list. These are fixed income investment vehicles offered only to 401(k) and other defined contribution plans. Current yields are in the 4% range. The assets in stable value funds are shorter-term high quality bonds and interest-bearing contracts, purchased directly from banks, insurance companies or mutual funds. They typically guarantee to maintain the value of the principal

and all accumulated interest. They are ideal for employees who want to preserve capital.

What to watch for: While they historically offer double the yields of a money market fund, just like money market and short term-bond funds, they can be interest rate sensitive in a lower-yield environment. Additionally, stable value providers are becoming more conservative, insisting that their funds' underlying bond portfolios have higher credit quality and liquidity, likely lowering future returns. And, like all fixed income investments, pay attention to fees. You have to compare costs and negotiate to get the best deals.

Scott Brookes is the Director of Retirement Plan Services at Sharkey, Howes & Javer, Inc. - one of Colorado's oldest "fee only" financial planning firms. You may reach Scott at (800) 557-9380 or in Denver at (303) 639-5100. You may also email him at Scott@shwj.com.





On Wednesday, October 29th, 2008 the Arapahoe-Douglas-Elbert, Boulder, Clear Creek and Denver Medical Societies joined forces in a first ever regional disaster exercise to improve readiness of our local medical infrastructure.


We tested the lines of communication through the “**FALL CALL FOR ALL**” exercise. This exercise was designed to gather contact and preparedness information and to test our ability to reach each physician in the event of a real emergency. We had a total of 802 contacts with physicians and 343 total responses to the actual PING. This is an approximate 42% response rate. Our next PING is scheduled for April 22nd and we hope you will plan to participate and be counted among those who respond.

The recent fires in Boulder County give us a good example and reinforce the critical importance of All Hazards preparation. During the fires, 27 agencies responded and if more physicians had been needed, BCMS had gathered the information needed to be in touch with you to ask you for your help. Fortunately in this case that was not needed. The fires also emphasized the importance of you and your patients having a "Ready Kit" packed to grab in times of emergencies. During the fires, it was discovered that this Kit is especially important for patients who have a need for prescription medications. To find out more about what you need to pack your "Ready Kit", go to www.readycolorado.com/.


DATES OF IMPORTANCE

- **February 2009** ~ As you renew your medical licenses, you will be asked to consider registering with the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer (CVM). Information about the CVM will be included in this mailing, but you can also find out more now by pasting one of these links into your browser: www.covolunteers.state.co.us or www.cdphe.state.co.us/epr/volunteer.html
- **April 16, 2009 ~ Full-scale Training Exercise** (Spring 2009 Flood) If you are interested in participating in a full-scale training exercise, please contact Anita Albrecht for more information and to register. aalbrecht@atcd.net
- **April 22, 2009 ~ Spring PING Exercise**
- **May 2-3, 2009** ~ Planning is underway for a CVM presentation to occur at the CMS Spring Conference at the Sonnenalp Resort in Vail. Details pending.

NOTE: You/your office can receive individual, personalized assistance with preparing your office's disaster "plan" by contacting Anita Albrecht, 720-273-2554 or aalbrecht@atcd.net



Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer (CVM)
for
Medical and Public Health Professionals



Be there when it counts

Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer
Medical and Public Health Disaster Response
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/epr/volunteer.html>

Questions? Contact:
BCMS — aalbrecht@atcd.net
ADEMS — kstanis@ademedicalsociety.org



Medicine's Day at the Capitol

Thursday February 19, 2009

Colorado State Capitol

The CMS leadership and staff have put together an information loaded, action packed "Medicine's Day" at the Capitol! If you want to meet your legislator, see how the Legislature conducts its business and get briefed on priority legislation facing medicine, plan on attending this year's Medicine's Day!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00 am: Legislature Meetings

Meet with your legislator BEFORE the frenzy of the legislature convenes
(Please notify Andi Johnston if you are interested so we may schedule a meeting for you)

9:00 am: Floor Work

Join your legislator to see how they operate up close and in person
House and Senate Chamber Floor

10:00 am: Legislative Update

The Governor's Building Blocks to Health Care Reform - the second generation
Invited Speakers: Joan Henneberry

Hospital Provider Fee legislation

Cody Belzley, Senior Health Policy Analyst

The Skolnik Act Modifications legislation

Legislative Sponsors:
Senator Morgan Carroll & Representative Su Ryden

12:00 Noon: Lunch at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

Health Care Reform: what do the employers, consumers
and the non-profit industry think?

Crowne Plaza Hotel
1450 Glenarm Place, Denver CO 80202

1:30 pm Committee Hearings

Watch the House and Senate Health and Human Services Committees in action
as they hear testimony on health policy legislation

***Please RSVP to Andi Johnston
(Andi_Johnston@cms.org) or call 720-858-6312***

“UNDERSTANDING THE BUSINESS OF MEDICINE”

A Financial Seminar For Physicians Who Want to Buy Or Sell A Practice

The Boulder County Medical Society and Colorado Physicians Consulting CO. (“CPC”) invites you, your Spouse, and/or Office Manager to join us for a Financial Seminar, continuing CPC’s commitment to focus upon Physician’s Medical Practice Financial Planning needs.

DATE: Saturday, April 25, 2009
LOCATION: Millennium Hotel, 1345 Twenty-Eighth Street, Boulder
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: 8:30 AM
PROGRAM: 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Presenters: C Leon B. Harrison CLU, President ~~ Colorado Physicians Consulting CO::
Andrew Stathopoulos, Esq. Stathopoulos & Associates ~~ Craig S. Ciarlelli, AIFA, CLU, ChFC

Seating is limited, pre-registration is requested.
RSVP to Diana at 303-797-2222 or Fax: 303-797-6310
Email: leonb.harrison@yahoo.com

DEADLINE TO CHALLENGE UHC

Colorado has been given an extended deadline for physicians to appeal their rating in United HealthCare’s (UHC) Premium Designation Program (PDP). While the national deadline remains January 27, 2009, Colorado physicians have until February 11 to submit their appeals.

Access CMS resources on the 2008 Physician Designation Legislation here:

- 1) To read the actual law-
<http://www.cms.org/HomeLinks/SB138Act.pdf>
- 2) To read how to challenge your profile or designation:
<http://www.cms.org/HomeLinks/SB138HowTo.pdf>
- 3) To review a checklist based on provisions of the law:
<http://www.cms.org/HomeLinks/SB138Checklist.pdf>

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Rissmiller at CMS: 720-858-6328.



HAPPY DOCTOR’S DAY!



Patients depend on their doctors, and for good reason. Your physician does more than keep you healthy. The 580 physicians who belong to BCMS voluntarily advocate for their patients.

Everyday, they work to ensure that what is right for their patients will drive our state and national health policy in a direction that not only manages care ethically but keeps the patient's interest foremost in the discussion.

March 30, 2009, National Doctor's Day, is a day set aside to show appreciation for the role of America's physicians in caring for the sick and advancing the art and science of medicine.

We take this opportunity to recognize YOU, the physicians in our community, who dedicate your lives to the health and well being of your patients.

HAPPY DOCTOR'S DAY!





CHECK THIS OUT!

Friday, February 6th

COPIC Companies "How Doctors Think/Errors and Cognition in Medicine"

12:30 pm to 1:30 pm at Longmont United Hospital. One ERS point. Presenter will be Dr. David Wahl.

Please RSVP to: Carol Bledsoe at 303-485-4184.

Tuesday, February 17th

COPIC Companies "Handoffs in Medicine"

12:30 to 1:30 pm at Avista Hospital in Louisville. One ERS point. Presenter will be Alethia Morgan, M.D.

RSVP to: Kathy Hardesty at 303-673-1002.

Thursday, February 19th

BCMS Office Managers Meeting

7:30 to 8:30 am, BCH-Foothills Campus, Leo Hill A Room.

Thursday, February 19th

Medicine's Day at the Capitol

Meet and have lunch with your legislators to discuss important issues most pertinent to your practice and your patients.

Please see page 6.

Thursday, March 5

BCMS Office Managers Meeting

7:30 to 8:30 am, BCH-Foothills Campus, Leo Hill A Room.

Thursday, March 12th

BCMS Executive Committee Meeting

6:30 pm at BCMS office.

Friday, March 13th

COPIC Companies "Emergency Medicine, Risk Management"

12:30 pm to 1:30 pm at Longmont United Hospital. Dr. Alan Lembitz presenter. Two ERS points.

RSVP to: Carol Bledsoe at 303-485-4184.

Friday, March 13th

CMS Board of Directors Meeting

1:00 pm at CMS Office in Denver.

All members welcome.

Thursday, April 23rd

BCMS Office Managers Meeting

7:30 to 8:30 am, BCH-Foothills Campus, Leo Hill A Room.

Saturday, April 25th

"Understanding the Business of Medicine" seminar on medical practice finances

Sponsored by Colorado Physicians Consulting Co.

Begins with continental breakfast at 8:30 am to 12:00 noon at the Millennium Hotel, 1345 28th Street in Boulder.

Presenters: C. Leon Harrison, CLU, Pres. Colo. Physicians Consulting Co.; Andrew Stathopoulos, Esq. Stathopoulos & Associates; and Craig Ciarlelli, AIFA, CLU, ChFC.

Please RSVP to Diana at 303-797-2222 or email: leonb.harrison@yahoo.com

Friday, May 1st

CMS Board of Directors Meeting

1:00 pm at Sonnenalp Resort in Vail (held in conjunction with CMS Spring Conference). All members welcome.

Saturday - Sunday, May 2nd-3rd

CMS Spring Conference at the Sonnenalp Resort in Vail

Details forthcoming - hold these dates!

CMS President-elect Dr. Mark Laitos is planning a fabulous meeting, you won't want to miss this.

Contact CMS at 720-858-6000 for meeting details and registration form.

Thursday, May 14th

BCMS Executive Committee Meeting

6:30 pm at BCMS office.

Thursday, May 28th

BCMS Office Managers Meeting

7:30 to 8:30 am, BCH-Foothills Campus, Leo Hill A Room.

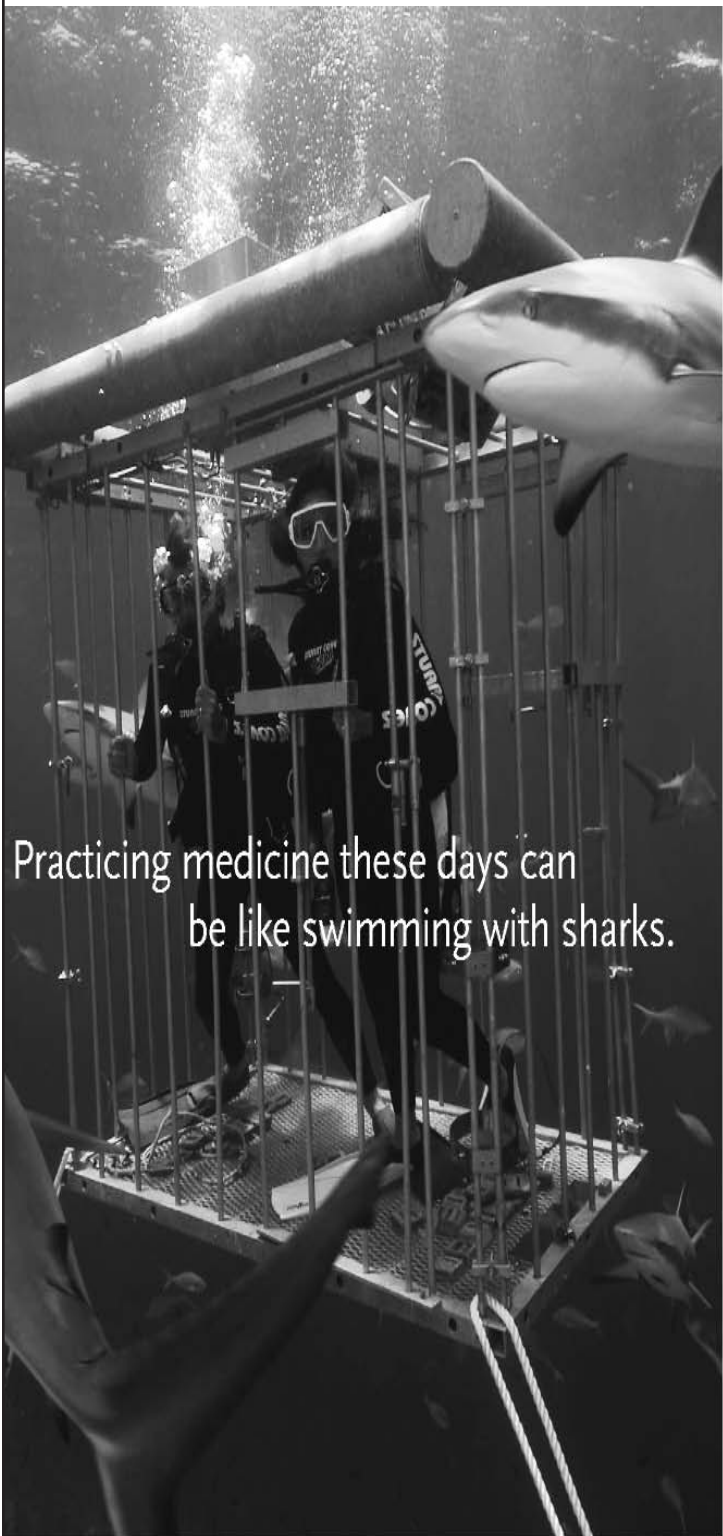
Wednesday, July 29th

Boulders Dinner Theatre Production of "Annie"

5:30 pm seating and dinner, 7:00 pm play.

Tickets \$40.00.

Call BCMS to reserve your table: 303-527-3215.



Practicing medicine these days can
be like swimming with sharks.

As a healthcare provider, you deal with risks daily. In fact, in a highly litigious environment, statistics demonstrate there's a one in eight chance you'll be sued this year and 40% chance you'll have a claim filed against you in the next five. These suits often seek millions of dollars, jeopardizing your *personal* assets and reputation.

But if you're with Medical Protective, you're safe. Last year alone, our healthcare providers won 92% of their trials and thousands of claims were dismissed without liability or payment—over 90% in many jurisdictions.

Trust the insurance carrier that provides you over a century of experience delivering the strongest defense for your assets and reputation.

Make Medical Protective *your* steel cage.

All products are underwritten by either The Medical Protective Company® or National Fire and Marine Insurance Company®, members of the Berkshire Hathaway group of businesses. Product availability varies based upon business and regulatory approval and may be offered on an admitted or non admitted basis. ©2007 The Medical Protective Company® All Rights Reserved.

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ACCIDENTALLY
STICK
YOURSELF WITH
A NEEDLE
WILL YOU DISCOVER YOUR
BUSINESS
INSURANCE
HAS HOLES IN IT?**



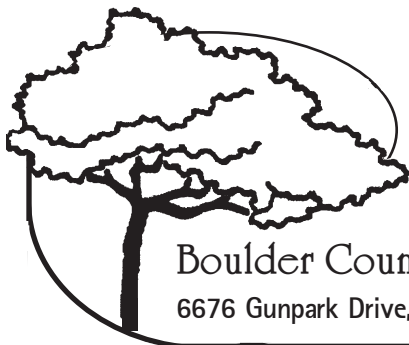
AT COPIC FINANCIAL, WE UNDERSTAND WHAT CAN HAPPEN IN A BUSY PRACTICE because no one has more expertise in assessing health care risks than our insurance specialists. We're not tied to any one insurance carrier, so we can objectively offer you the best and most effective coverage possible. You also can depend on us as a resource for helping you save time and money in your business.

COPIC Financial offers all types of insurance for your practice and your people — worker's compensation, business liability, disability insurance, Medicare Supplements, personal and group health insurance, life insurance, employee benefits, long-term care insurance and retirement plans and investment planning.

Don't get stuck with the wrong coverage. Call 720.858.6280 or 800.421.1834. COPIC Financial. Our policy is putting you first.



7351 Lowry Boulevard, Denver, CO 80230 • 720.858.6280 or 800.421.1834 • www.copicfsg.com



Boulder County Medical Society
6676 Gunpark Drive, Suite B, Boulder, CO 80301

Phone: (303) 527-3215, Fax: (303) 527-3216

SKOLNIK - MUST READ PAGE 3 REGARDING NEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS!