COPIC 101:
RESIDENT ROTATION PROGRAM

A training program for resident physicians that helps them prepare for common issues they may face in their practices.

Since 2004, COPIC has offered its Resident Rotation program to provide residents physicians insight and knowledge on patient safety and medical-legal issues.

This is an interactive, case-based experience that explores the following key areas:

1. An inside look at medical incidents, medical errors, medical liability claims and the world of medico-legal practice.
2. Patient safety initiatives: Answering the who, what, where, why and how regarding practice improvement systems and the barriers to implementation.
3. An explanation of the difference between the epidemiology of medical practice in your specialty, the epidemiology of medical errors, and medical liability claims in the different specialties.
4. The valuation of communication, early reporting, and patient relationships in order to reduce claims and improve patient outcomes.

More than 182 residents participated in the Resident Rotation in 2015. It is the only program of its kind in the nation whereby residents study a large number of detailed case files at all stages of the litigation process. In addition, participation supports residents and residency programs in meeting Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) core competencies.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

We can accommodate residents, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners of any specialty. There is valuable general information for all resident physicians, as well as specialty specific information such as incident reports and claim files. We believe this experience is better suited to residents who are in the later years of their programs.

COST?

Zero. The cost of the resident program is absorbed by COPIC. Our mission is to improve medicine in the communities we serve, and the program supports this through interactive education.

WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES DO RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN?

Residents meet with the following COPIC personnel and departments: Physician Risk Managers, Underwriting, Claims, 3Rs Program, Senior Management, and Legal. They also attend Claims Roundtables and participate in disclosure practice with standardized patients.

COPIC hopes this experience will provide transparency in the way a medical professional liability insurance company operates as well as educate program participants on how they can minimize risks.

For more information on COPIC’s Resident Rotation, please contact Stephanie Heronema at sberonema@copic.com or (720) 858-6129.

“Excellent exposure and truly one of the best rotations.”
—Past Program Participant

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
RECENT GRANTS FUNDED THROUGH THE FOUNDATION

The COPIC Medical Foundation supports initiatives that improve health care outcomes, patient safety and quality of care. Recent grant funding from the Foundation was provided to the following:

- **The Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) Program** at the Rocky Mountain MS Center at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus will begin using a patient-driven self assessment process to help providers track quality-of-life changes over time, drive awareness of patient priorities, and use data collected to improve outcomes.

- **St. Joseph Hospital's Graduate Medical Education program** is creating a classroom-based performance-improvement program called **Foundational Curriculum in Quality and Safety**. The curriculum will include a review of clinic safety occurrences, event reporting, and prepares residents for performance-based working environments.

- **UTI Decide**, a pilot program aimed at increasing the correct diagnosis of urinary tract infections (UTIs) and decreasing incorrect diagnoses. UTI Decide will provide electronic clinical decision support in acute care hospitals and nursing homes. Funding will go toward usability testing and field testing prior to a clinical trial. This research is being done as part of the Division of Health Care Policy and Research at the University of Colorado at Denver.

- **The Colorado Chapter of the National Kidney Foundation** will continue the **Kidney Care Kits** pilot program with Denver Nephrology. This program provides an additional 500 kits at all ten of Denver Nephrology’s Colorado-based offices and provides resources for patients to increase care compliance with doctor’s recommendations and best practices.

ADDITIONAL RESIDENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Practice Essentials Programs**—A one-day seminar designed to provide residents with a glimpse into life-after-residency. Topics include: assessing practice opportunities, financing and investment basics, contracts, business accounting, medical liability insurance, and rural practice opportunities.

- **Academy for Emerging Leaders in Patient Safety: The Telluride Experience**—A week-long educational experience during which participants discuss and explore patient safety issues and risk reduction strategies. COPIC is proud to award scholarships to selected residents to attend. Please contact Stephanie Heronema at sheronema@copic.com or (720) 858-6129 for more information.

- **COPIC Claims Committee Meetings**—A half-day meeting where in-progress claims are presented and discussed by COPIC’s Board of Directors and our faculty consultants.

- **COPIC Mock Trial Programs**—This three-hour program offers an in-depth look at courtroom proceedings during a medical liability trial.
The Legislative Landscape

THE ROAD TO NOVEMBER

Colorado’s favorable tort environment has allowed the health care community to focus its attention on improving the quality of care and patient safety over the last 28 years.

In a 2014 study published in *Health Affairs*¹, it was determined that states that have caps on noneconomic damages experience 15 percent lower payments for medical liability claims than those that do not have these caps. This is a significant statistic and one that can heavily influence the availability of access to health care providers in our state, specifically higher risk specialty providers.

The study reiterates a key point that COPIC has made to legislators throughout its history: the reforms provided in the Health Care Availability Act are critical to maintaining and improving Colorado’s access to health care and culture of quality care.

Reinforcing this message requires COPIC’s continued involvement in policy discussions at the Colorado Legislature, where state laws are enacted, amended, or struck down.

To ensure that legislators who support Colorado’s stable tort environment succeed in their run for the legislature, COPIC supports them with financial contributions to their campaigns as well as with positive campaign communications supporting their candidacy. Each election, COPIC monitors campaigns to ensure that any one we directly sponsor is consistently positive and free of attacks on any candidate. We don’t want to contribute to the negative tone that too often characterizes campaigns these days.

Already this year we have been inundated with election year politics and ads. Presidential election years historically amplify partisan rhetoric and electioneering. However, this year has been uncharacteristic from other presidential elections due to the early start of the primary activity as well as the nature of the candidates. The politics playing out on the national stage certainly had an impact on the legislators at the General Assembly this session. That impact was also felt on the candidates running in primaries for the 18 Colorado Senate races and 65 Colorado House races as well as on the performance of the voters in the June 28 primary elections.

Now that the primaries are over, the parties will focus their efforts on the November election. Currently, the Republicans hold a majority in the Colorado Senate with a one vote 18-17 margin of control. The Democrats control the Colorado House of Representatives by a 34-31 majority. The goal of each party will be to hold their majorities in the chamber they currently control and pick up wins in contested seats for the other chamber, if not control.

COPIC will spend the summer and fall meeting with numerous incumbents and candidates, both Republican and Democratic. These conversations will focus on the very real and direct correlation between the caps and other reforms Colorado enjoys and the medical liability insurance rates paid by health care providers. COPIC aims to build an understanding among the candidates we support that stable and reasonable rates ensure that maximum resources can be directed to providing quality care.

To learn more about COPIC’s legislative and policy engagement efforts, contact Beverly Razon, Director of Public Affairs, at (720) 858-6000 or brazon@copic.com.

For information on legislation or to find your candidate, visit us at [www.callcopic.com](http://www.callcopic.com) and go to the Legislative Action Center link under Resources.

¹ Health Aff October 2014 10.1377
COMING SOON: ENHANCED ONLINE EDUCATION CATALOG

In August, COPIC will be launching a new platform for our available seminars and courses. Users can access this at the same url as before, www.callcopic.com/education, and it features the following enhancements:

- Improved user interface and search capabilities
- Personalized recommendations on education activities
- Ability to review on-demand courses already completed for reference purposes
- Streamlined CME experience to submit evaluations and access certifications 24/7

This is part of our ongoing efforts to invest in technology that helps improve the services we offer our insureds.