

Greetings,

I am one of the seven physicians in Wilkinson County who will be without medical malpractice insurance on July 1, 2002, if something is not done to decrease the level of risk the insurance companies are being exposed to. They do not want to insure me even though I have had NO payouts against me for the LIFE OF MY POLICY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The reason that this is the case is related to the following.

I saw in today's issue of Medical Economics (March 22, 2002) in a chart titled "Top 10 reasons for malpractice claims against primary care physicians" that the NUMBER 2 reason for litigation is "**NO MEDICAL MISADVENTURE.**" This was defined with an asterisk as "The doctor was named in a lawsuit, but there was no allegation of inappropriate medical conduct on his part.." Fully five percent of these cases resulted payout (an average payout of \$109,212 for nothing done wrong). This is proof that we can practice perfect medicine and still be sued with loss for no reason/fault of our own.

PLEASE, look at this catastrophic state of affairs and do something to prevent the mass exodus of physicians from our state. Especially for those of us on the border with another state, it will happen if we cannot be insured in our state.

Robert L. Lewis, MD  
Woodville