

Figure 1. Medical Liability Claim Frequency by Physician Specialty, 2007-2008

	Percentage of Physicians			Number of Claims per 100 Physicians
	Ever Sued	Sued 2+ Times	Sued in Last 12 Months	
Allergy & immunology	22.1	9.4	0.7	35
Anesthesiology	43.7	14.8	2.3	67
Cardiology	49.4	29.8	3.3	110
Cardiothoracic surgery	75.4	56.7	14.9	297
Colon & rectal surgery	62.7	39.7	15.9	170
Dermatology	30.0	8.9	3.6	41
Emergency medicine	49.1	30.4	8.6	107
Endocrinology	30.0	15.2	2.1	65
Family medicine	38.1	20.7	3.2	79
Gastroenterology	47.5	24.5	6.5	103
General practice	45.3	34.9	2.0	87
General surgery	68.3	52.2	13.4	211
Geriatrics	24.8	9.5	0.0	46
Hand surgery	55.5	33.0	7.0	139
Internal medicine	32.5	12.8	4.0	59
Interventional pain medicine	25.3	10.0	1.9	57
Interventional radiology	43.7	20.7	5.8	99
Medical oncology	32.5	14.3	1.0	59
Nephrology	34.1	11.7	6.0	53
Neurology	50.2	26.8	3.8	110
Neurosurgery	79.1	62.0	18.5	340
Nuclear medicine	19.3	7.8	3.2	34
Obstetrics/gynecology	69.6	52.5	9.5	217
Ophthalmology	37.2	17.2	4.1	67
Orthopedic surgery	70.3	52.1	11.3	259
Osteopathic manipulative therapy	30.3	8.5	0.0	44
Otolaryngology	53.0	26.8	7.4	114
Pain medicine	50.9	28.3	5.0	113
Pathology	35.8	9.5	3.4	55
Pediatrics	26.0	3.5	0.0	29
Physical medicine & rehabilitation	19.7	9.6	3.6	35
Plastic surgery	57.5	35.7	12.3	158
Psychiatry	22.2	8.2	2.0	39
Pulmonary disease	53.4	29.1	6.1	126
Radiation oncology	27.2	8.0	2.4	37
Radiology	52.0	33.7	12.4	133
Reproductive endocrinology	50.0	30.3	8.1	115
Rheumatology	37.5	12.5	1.6	61
Sleep medicine	42.2	20.7	4.2	88
Spine surgery	74.3	65.1	16.7	305
Urology	53.6	32.6	7.4	139
Vascular surgery	71.6	48.0	18.9	208
All	42.2	22.4	5.1	95
N	4793	4738	4776	4738

Source: AMA 2007-2008 Physician Practice Information survey.

Figure 2. Crosswalk Between Two Specialty Classification Schemes

Specialty Categories in Claim Frequency Report (13 Categories)	Specialty Categories in CMS Submissions (42 Categories)
General & family practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family medicine • General practice
Internal medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General internal medicine
Internal medicine sub-specialties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergy & immunology • Cardiology • Endocrinology • Gastroenterology • Geriatrics • Medical oncology • Nephrology • Pulmonary disease • Rheumatology • Sleep medicine
General surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General surgery • Vascular surgery
Surgical sub-specialties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiothoracic surgery • Colon & rectal surgery • Hand surgery • Neurosurgery • Ophthalmology • Orthopedic surgery • Otolaryngology • Plastic surgery • Spine surgery • Urology
Pediatrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pediatrics
Obstetrics/gynecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obstetrics/gynecology • Reproductive endocrinology
Radiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventional radiology • Nuclear medicine • Radiation oncology • Radiology
Psychiatry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychiatry
Anesthesiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anesthesiology • Interventional pain medicine • Pain medicine
Pathology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathology
Emergency medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency medicine
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dermatology • Neurology • Osteopathic manipulative therapy • Physical medicine and rehabilitation