



# IronHealth®

## Healthcare Malpractice Verdicts and Settlements



### Sepsis related multiple amputation claims

IronHealth's Claim Data Warehouse contains detail on over \$145B of hospital professional liability losses. The frequency of significant verdicts and settlements associated with sepsis and multiple amputation cases continue to rise. The chart below outlines cases that have been resolved.

| Year Resolved | State         | Location             | Age/Sex | Amount             | Description                                 |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|---|
| 2016          | Pennsylvania  | Surgery              | 52/M    | \$8.78M Verdict    | 2 below the knee                            |
| 2016          | New Jersey    | ICU                  | 29/F    | \$16.5M Settlement | 2 below the knee and left hand at wrist     |
| 2015          | New York      | Unknown              | Infant  | \$3.5M Settlement  | 1 foot and 1 leg                            |
| 2015          | Illinois      | ICU                  | 68/M    | \$10.425M Verdict  | Hand and other extremities                  |
| 2015          | Washington    | Emergency Department | 52/M    | \$12.5M Settlement | 2 legs and 2 lower arms                     |
| 2014          | California    | Emergency Department | 45/F    | \$6.887M Verdict   | Numerous amputations                        |
| 2014          | New York      | Orthopedics          | 36/M    | \$9.1M Verdict     | 2 above the knee                            |
| 2014          | New York      | Emergency Department | 29/F    | \$62M Verdict      | 2 below the knee                            |
| 2013          | Florida       | Emergency Department | 40/F    | \$7.1M Settlement  | 2 below the knee and 8 fingers              |
| 2013          | Illinois      | Orthopedics          | 8/F     | \$32M Settlement   | 2 below the knee and both arms at the elbow |
| 2013          | Massachusetts | Surgery              | 41/F    | \$9.5M Settlement  | All 4 limbs                                 |

|      |                |                      |      |                    |   |
|------|----------------|----------------------|------|--------------------|---|
| 2012 | Florida        | Pediatrics           | 2/F  | \$12M Verdict      | All 4 limbs                               |
| 2012 | New York       | EMS                  | 35/M | \$17M Settlement   | Both hands and feet                       |
| 2012 | Ohio           | Surgery              | 17/M | \$5M Settlement    | 2 legs below the knee and damage to 1 arm |
| 2012 | Maryland       | Surgery              | 4/M  | \$11.5M Settlement | All 4 limbs                               |
| 2011 | Pennsylvania   | Homecare             | 55/F | \$23M Verdict      | 2 below the knee and 1 finger             |
| 2011 | Illinois       | Emergency Department | 38/M | \$12M Verdict      | 1 arm, 1 leg, and 1 hand                  |
| 2011 | California     | Emergency Department | 4/F  | \$3M Verdict       | 1 foot and parts of both hands            |
| 2011 | Tennessee      | Surgery              | 30/M | \$5.5.M Settlement | All 4 limbs                               |
| 2009 | Texas          | Emergency Department | 47/M | \$17M Verdict      | All 4 limbs                               |
| 2009 | North Carolina | Emergency Department | 39/M | \$11M Settlement   | All 4 limbs                               |
| 2008 | Georgia        | Surgery              | 14/M | \$24M Verdict      | Above the knee                            |

### Factors Contributing to Increase in Sepsis Related Amputation Claims

- Concentration of such cases in the hands of high caliber plaintiff attorneys
- Increased focus on economic damages with expensive life care plans
- Advances in medical technology resulting in longer life expectancy
- Jurors with lottery mentality who are desensitized to the value of money

**As hospitals and health systems focus on process improvement initiatives, it is hoped that these human errors can be reduced over time.**

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