Maryland Medical Malpractice Summary and Statistics

By David Belk MD

Tort Reform Law: Courts & Judicial Proceedings Code §3-2A-09(A). Noneconomic damages for a cause of action arising between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2008, inclusive, may not exceed $650,000. Increased annually by $15,000 after 2008. Applies to all claims and to all defendants from the same injury, or to wrongful death cases with only one plaintiff. If two wrongful death plaintiffs- $125% of current non-economic cap.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012-2016 Average</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: All Providers(^1)</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Per Capita Malpractice costs: MD/DO only</td>
<td>$16.19</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 1 Million Residents</td>
<td>47.51</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Claims per 100 Practicing Physicians</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>20</td>
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Table showing the average amount paid per capita\(^1\) each year in Maryland from 2012-2016 for medical malpractice claims against all practitioners as well as against physicians (MD and DO’s) only. It also shows the number of paid claims per million residents and per 100 practicing physicians in Maryland those years.

Brief summary: Medical malpractice is more expensive in most Northeastern states than in other parts of the U.S. and Maryland is no exception. Maryland does have a cap on non-economic damages, but it appears to have little affect on their malpractice costs.

Notes

1) Total amount paid in medical malpractice claims in the state each year/ the state’s Population.
2) All practitioners includes physicians, podiatrists, dentists, nurses, hygienists, pharmacists, pharmacy techs, lab techs, physical therapists, etc…

Sources

http://truecostofhealthcare.net/malpractice_statistics/
http://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/analysistool/
http://www.atra.org/issues/noneconomic-damages-reform
**Graphic Summary of Medical Malpractice Incidence and Cost for Maryland from 1991-2017**

**Figure 1:** Total number of paid medical malpractice claims for Maryland from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners combined as well as for MD/DOs only.

**Figure 2:** Total amount paid for all medical malpractice claims from 1991-2017 for all health care practitioners and MD/DOs only in Maryland.
**Figure 3:** Figure 2 data when adjusted for inflation.