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### Current Issue



October 2009

Cover Feature

**QIS: An Update**  
Regulatory Update

### Long-Term Living Reader Service

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**AOD software**  
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AAHSA's 'Idea House' was VERY cool. Check out our video tour of the technologically impressive home:  
<http://tinyurl.com/yzzm> yesterday

There was a lot of good commentary for last week's poll question on employee cellphone usage. Add to the convo:  
<http://tinyurl.com/yzsg8> yesterday

Larry Minnix explains the purpose and history

## Blogs

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### Common colonoscopy prep may cause kidney failure or death in elders

Posted on: 11.5.2009 2:51:58 PM Posted by **Jonathan Rosenfeld, LTC Lawyer**

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We've all gone through the unpleasant task of preparing for a colonoscopy. Drinking unpleasant liquid or popping pills for the purpose of giving the doctor a better view of our colon's contents is ... anything but pleasant. Now, news has surfaced that, depending on the product you used to prepare for the procedure, the experience may not have been merely unpleasant—but downright dangerous.

On December 11, 2008, the FDA ordered the makers of Visicol and OsmoPrep to put a black box warning on their products alerting consumers to the fact that the drugs can cause kidney damage or death. The warning came after the FDA confirmed more than 20 reports of a severe kidney injury called acute phosphate nephropathy after people consumed the products. Acute phosphate nephropathy may progress resulting in: kidney failure, long-term dialysis, the need for a kidney transplant or death.



On the heels of the FDA warnings regarding Visicol and OsmoPrep, C.B. Fleet Company, the manufacturer of Fleet Phoso-Soda and Fleet Phoso Soda EZ Prep Bowel Cleansing System, stopped selling the products over the counter without a prescription.

Visicol, OsmoPrep, and the Fleet Phoso-Soda products all contain high doses of sodium phosphate that works to clean out peoples' bowels before medical procedures such as colonoscopies.

According to Dr. Joyce Korvick, deputy director of the FDA's Division of Gastroenterology Products at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, "Of the reported cases, three were biopsy-proven cases of acute phosphate nephropathy. The onset of the kidney injury in these cases varied, occurring in some within several hours of the use of the products and in other cases up to 21 days after use."

The FDA's warnings applicable to Visicol, OsmoPrep, and Fleet Phoso-Soda products are particularly relevant to elderly people, because studies have repeatedly shown medical complications in the following demographics after they

### Poll Question:

#### What form of resident-to-resident abuse is most prevalent in your community?

- Physical (violence)
- Verbal
- Sexual
- Psychological
- None of the above

Your Comments:

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take oral sodium phosphate tablets:

Document hosted at JDSUPRA™ <http://www.jdsupra.com/post/documentViewer.aspx?fid=30ed2bd2-c760-4378-8836-de83a857ceab>

- people over 55-years-old
- people suffering from dehydration
- people suffering from kidney disease
- people taking medications to control blood pressure (angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors to lower blood pressure or angiotensin-receptor blockers used to treat high blood pressure)
- people taking anti-inflammatory medications (including many arthritis medications or ibuprofen)

**Symptoms of acute phosphate nephropathy**

People with acute phosphate nephropathy may or may not have physical symptoms of their illness. In the case of those with no physical symptoms, blood tests that measure kidney function can be used to confirm the diagnosis.

The majority of people with acute phosphate nephropathy have some physical manifestation of the disease including one or more of the following symptoms:

- reduced urine output
- rapid energy loss
- swelling in the legs and ankles

**Jonathan Rosenfeld is a lawyer who represents people injured in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Jonathan has represented victims of nursing home abuse and neglect throughout Illinois and across the country. Visit his personal blog at [www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com](http://www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com) and his Web site [BedsoreFAQ.com](http://BedsoreFAQ.com).**



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