

## **STAT LAW September 2010**

### **FLORIDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION DISSATISFIED WITH AMA**

The Florida Medical Association (FMA) voted to send a no confidence letter to the American Medical Association (AMA) at its annual meeting in August. According to FMA president Madelyn E. Butler, M.D., FMA members and leadership have serious concerns about the AMA's effectiveness and ability to represent the interests of physicians. The FMA will continue to send delegates to AMA meetings.

### **NEW PAINT ADDITIVE KILLS MRSA**

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute located in Troy, New York recently announced it has developed a coating that kills methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). The anti MRSA coating can be used on surgical equipment, hospital walls, and other surfaces. According to the press release, the coating "is toxic only to MRSA, does not rely on antibiotics, and does not leach chemicals into the environment or become clogged over time." Reportedly, the coating also remains effective even after repeated washing.

### **DOCTORS MUST TIMELY FURNISH COPIES OF PATIENT RECORDS**

Under Florida law, doctors must provide patients copies of their medical records "in a timely manner, without delays for legal review." The same requirement applies when the request is from the patient's attorney or legal representative. The record must include copies of all reports and records including x-rays and insurance information. The only exception applies to psychiatric, psychological or psychotherapeutic records. A doctor that has provided psychiatric, psychological or psychotherapeutic services may provide a report of examination and treatment to the patient instead of providing the complete psychiatric record. A doctor providing psychiatric, psychological or psychotherapeutic treatment must provide the complete record to a subsequent treating provider.

### **DOCTORS MUST UPDATE THEIR DOH PROFILES WITHIN 15 DAYS**

Number One on the Board of Medicine's Top Ten Laws and Rules every doctor should know. Doctors must update their physician profiles within 15 days with any changes in their address, staff privileges, medical malpractice history, financial responsibility, board certification, education, disciplinary action or criminal conviction information.