

## PI E-MAIL & FAX ALERT

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### 25 Questions you want to be prepared for before you testify in an arbitration, deposition or trial

The response from doctors asking for the 25 Tough Lewkovich PI Questions was overwhelming. We are redesigning our FALL/WINTER speaking tour to answer these questions. The questions are important and probative. If you plan to take your PI to a higher level, you will need to become proficient answering tough defense questions---whether or not you go to court.

For a copy of this basic 25 questions, contact [JohnTawlian@ShawnSteel.com](mailto:JohnTawlian@ShawnSteel.com)



#### **The Anonymous Adjuster answers your questions:**

Last week's PI Teleconference marked our largest statewide audience. We heard from an engaging plane spoken adjuster who reviews PI DC files each day.

He will appear again.

In the meanwhile the AA agreed to answer some PI Questions:

**Q.** Will the DC get penalized if his cash charges are much less than his PI bills?

**A.** "The claims industry rarely credits the full DC bill in the evaluation. There is usually one juror who "knows" how much DC's charge. Juries have little tolerance for what they perceive as gouging. They will punish the plaintiff harshly.

We usually allow \$150 for Initial Exam, \$100 a visit, reasonable x-rays and a Final Exam at \$100. Nothing more."

### SPINAL SURGERY : DOUBT CAST

Studies find that a procedure in which cement is injected to fill cracks in the spine is no more effective than placebo.

In a major blow for treating osteoporosis, Dr. David Kallmes of the Mayo Clinic enrolled 131 patients, 68 received a vertebroplasty and 61 received a sham procedure in which the back was numbed, surgeons pressed on it as if they were injecting the cement and the patients were exposed to the distinctive odor of the cement. Both groups of patients reported a significant reduction in pain and improvements in the quality of life.



Epidemiologist Rachelle Buchbinder, concurred with a similar Australian study. The procedure began in the 1990's and is now widely accepted and assumed very effective at relieving pain. About 80,000 vertebroplasties are performed in the US each year, with mostly elderly patients.

Despite the disappointing findings, surgeons are unlikely to stop performing the procedure because it does relieve pain, even if it is a placebo effect said Dr. Ty Thalyanathan a spinal surgeon at Chapman Medical Center in Orange.

*New England Journal of Medicine*

**Mark your calendar now.**

**Monthly Teleconference**

**Wednesday August 26 @ 1:00 pm**

**Dr. Lawrence Nordhoff, D.C, Q.M.E.,**

**A.C.T.A.R.**

**Answering Tough Questions in Depositions & Trials**