

PI E-MAIL & FAX ALERT

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Health PPO Insurers are graded

Five of six major California PPO carriers are rated by its members with only “poor” [1] *service*. This from a 4 point scale. Aetna PPO earned a “2” for ‘fair’ service.

Again five of the six were rated “fair” for *getting care easily*. United Healthcare attained a 3 star as good service.

The big six are:

- ❖ Aetna
- ❖ Anthem Blue Cross
- ❖ Blue Shield
- ❖ Cigna
- ❖ Health Net
- ❖ United Healthcare

Just because the government gives you a license [PPO] doesn’t mean you members get to enjoy the ‘services.’

Faulty Hip Replacements – Thousands impacted by DePuy Orthopaedics

Another medical disaster for some who had the DePuy hip replacement. The device was built with a metal on metal construction, which causes metal debris to break off, leading to loosening of hard tissue.



Owner Johnson & Johnson withdrew the device last August. A second hip replacement is needed. A Federal Court in San Francisco is consolidating hundreds of cases.



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Chatsworth man rear-ended wins \$387,488 on lumbar injury

Osmin Calderon was stopped for a light when Landeros of PRL stuck him. Calderon underwent chiropractic care in addition to three epidural injections. He could not stand for more than 10 minutes at a time. He underwent a microdiscectomy 2 ½ years post accident. He lost 1 year of work.

Defense [Zurich] admitted liability but claimed 50% of Calderon’s injuries came from a *prior* accident Nov 2006. Defense conceded this accident made his symptoms worse. The jury agreed with Calderon’s Marina Zanazania’s DC testimony that Calderon recovered before the 2nd accident took place. This can be very tricky, if your records do not support this.

Combined medicals totaled \$120,000. Calderon demanded \$ 249,999 before trial. Zurich offered \$125,000.

The jury awarded \$387,488. Zurich had to pay an extra \$12,000 to cover Calderon’s court costs.

Calderon vs. PRL Glass Systems, No PC 043 243, LA Superior Court, Chatsworth: Judge Michael Knight. March 28 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. MARINA ZANAZANIAN DC, Van Nuys.

PRACTICE TIPS

- When patients have two or more accidents near in time, maintain separate files. But refer to other accident. Transparency is essential.
- Keep a pain chart to check progress.
- When ‘new’ accident takes place discuss with PI attorney.
- Even a long delayed surgery is valid if all treating doctors agree.