

## Patient Safety, Risk, and Quality Update

From Allied World and ECRI

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The following news and guidance were recently made available without login from ECRI's Health System Risk Management and related services. If you have any questions, please email Ajay Aggarwal at [Ajay.Aggarwal@awac.com](mailto:Ajay.Aggarwal@awac.com).

### News

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Seems to Be Safe for Pregnant Persons So Far, But More Research Is Needed, Study Says**

Preliminary findings have not shown obvious safety concerns among pregnant persons who received mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, but additional research is necessary over a longer period of time and with more participants to make further conclusions, say the authors of an April 21, 2021 study in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

**[Read the full summary.](#)**

#### **Improving Building Design to Control Indoor Airborne Transmission of Infectious Agents**

Controlling the concentration of indoor respiratory aerosols is critical in reducing airborne transmission of infectious agents and can be accomplished through source control (including masking and physical distancing) and engineering (including ventilation and filtration), say the authors of an April 16, 2021, *JAMA* article.

**[Read the full summary.](#)**

#### **FDA Advises Transition from Use of Disposable Respirators**

Healthcare facilities should transition away from use of decontaminated or bioburden-reduced disposable respirators and other crisis capacity-conservation strategies, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended in an April 9, 2021 letter to healthcare personnel and facilities.

**[Read the full summary.](#)**

### **FDA Updates Recommendations for COVID-19 Testing Amid Mutations**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has updated its Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Medical Devices webpage with new information on how mutations of the SARS-CoV-2 virus can affect COVID-19 tests—potentially providing false negative results.

**[Read the full summary.](#)**

### **For Patients with Chronic Illnesses, Team Approach to Primary Care Is Better than Solo-Physician Care, Study Shows**

Healthcare provider teams outperformed solo physicians in a five-year sample of the management of three common chronic illnesses in primary care, leading researchers to suggest reforms to scope-of-practice policies for physician assistants (PAs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

**[Read the full summary.](#)**

### **Recent Research on Transgender Patients Discusses Thrombotic Risks, Heart Health**

Gender-affirming hormone therapies are a necessary medical intervention for many transgender people, and hematologists should support the safe continuation of physical transition for those who choose such therapies, according to an editorial in the April 1, 2021, issue of *The Lancet Haematology*.

**[Read the full summary.](#)**

### **Anti-Asian Racism: Opportunities for Physicians to Respond**

Physicians should create safe spaces and welcoming environments to treat Asian American patients suffering from the emotional effects of racist sentiments and crimes against Asian Americans, exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to one doctor's perspective published March 24, 2021, in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

**[Read the full summary.](#)**

### **Study Finds Suicide Attempts More Common in Older Adults with Dementia or Mild Cognitive Impairment**

Older adults recently diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or dementia may be at increased risk for suicide attempts, says a March 24, 2021, study in *JAMA Psychiatry*.

**[Read the full summary.](#)**