

# Patient Safety, Risk, and Quality Update

From Allied World and ECRI Institute

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

## IV-Fluid Minibag Shortage: Technology Solutions to Consider Now

### **New Resource Identifies Alternative Supplies for Dire shortage of IV-Fluid Minibags**

The IV minibag shortage has been impacting hospitals across the United States, hindering normal patient care and pharmacy and nursing practice. Several minibag products are currently on back order or provided only on an allocation basis. Healthcare facilities are seeking out alternatives to combat the solution shortages. This guidance article features recommendations and alternative solutions for coping with the minibag shortage, along with functional equivalency data for IV solution bags.

[Read more and download the free report.](#)

## Member Q&A

### **Ask ECRI: When Patients Object to Transgender Roommates**

A risk manager member recently asked for guidance on handling situations when patients object to sharing a room with a transgender patient. While the hospital's policy is to place transgender patients in private rooms when possible, if no private rooms are available, patients who identify as male are placed with male patients, and patients who identify as female are placed with female patients. Although hospital staff report on these patients away from the room, a patient or family member may react badly on learning that the patient's roommate is transgender.

[Read the full response.](#)

### **To Ask or Not to Ask? That is the Question When it Comes to a Patient's Sexual Orientation**

Should all patients be asked about their sexual orientation? The question was debated by two U.K. healthcare experts in a January 17, 2018, article in *The BMJ*. The question should always be asked, argues the first doctor, because providers "already fail" the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual (LGBT) community by either not recognizing or making wrong assumptions about their needs.

[Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)

### **Updated AHRQ Toolkit Aims to Reduce Errors in Diagnostic Testing**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) updated its Improving Your Laboratory Testing Process toolkit for the first time since 2013, offering primary care offices updated guidelines on bettering the diagnostic testing process.

[Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)

### **Are MRI Procedures Safe for Patients with Legacy Implanted Cardiac Devices?**

Undergoing magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) with a legacy cardiac device is not associated with any long-term clinically significant adverse events, according to a December 28, 2017, study in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The authors conducted a prospective study of MRI safety among 1,509 patients who had either a pacemaker (58% of the patients) or implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD; 42% of the patients) considered to be MRI-conditional (meaning the device has been shown to pose no hazard, under specified conditions, to patients undergoing MRI)

[Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)

### **Not So Sweet: Popular Sugar Additive May Have Fueled Spread of *C. difficile***

A popular sugar additive could have fueled epidemic strains of *Clostridium difficile*, according to a January 3, 2018, study in *Nature*. The authors observed that two virulent strains of *C. difficile*—ribotype 027 and ribotype 078—are very good at metabolizing low concentrations of the sugar trehalose.

[Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)

### **New Toolkit Gives Surgical Centers Tools to Battle Infection**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has rolled out a new toolkit for hospital surgical units aimed at preventing surgical site infections. Based on the experiences of frontline care providers in about 200 hospitals nationwide and their successes in preventing such infections, the toolkit contains two guides with supplementary materials and 15 instructional modules.

[Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)

### **Hackers versus Robots: Which Do Hospital Leaders Consider a More Pressing Issue in 2018?**

More than 9 of 10 hospital systems plan to boost spending on cybersecurity in 2018, while most are proceeding cautiously with up-and-coming technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), according to a new survey from the Center for Connected Medicine and the Health Management Academy.

[Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)

### **Almost Half of Doctors Are Burned Out; More May Be Depressed Than We Think**

More than 40% of physicians report feeling burned out and 15% report feeling some form of depression, according to a January 17, 2018, *Medscape* survey. Of the more than 15,000 physicians in 29 specialties who responded, 42% reported symptoms of burnout, 12% reported feeling "down" (or used another colloquial term for depression), and 3% reported suffering from clinical depression.

[Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)

### **How Have Inpatient Stays Involving Adverse Drug Events Shifted in Four Years?**

From 2010 to 2014, the number of inpatient stays involving an adverse drug event (ADE) stayed relatively stable, according to a January 2018 statistical brief from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project. However, this time period also saw a shift: The number of inpatient stays involving an ADE that originated during the stay decreased by 27%, while the number of inpatient stays involving an ADE that was present on admission increased by 11%.

[Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)