

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.

Member Q&A

Ask ECRI: Using Drones to Keep Aging Residents Safe

A risk manager in an aging services organization recently asked ECRI Institute for guidance on using drones for additional security and monitoring around the campus. Noting that he has observed an uptick in amateur drone flight around the campus, the risk manager speculates that if the organization trained staff to operate one or two drones, they could be deployed for general security watch, to search for residents who have eloped, or for emergency oversight to supplement security officers. For example, the risk manager states, with an inexpensive thermal imaging drone, the organization may have found an eloped resident in minutes, when in fact the situation turned out to be the organization's longest and hardest search ever.

[Read the full response.](#)

News

Time to Destigmatize the Idea of Physicians Working with Alzheimer Disease?

Contrary to popular perception, Alzheimer disease is not a monolithic condition that leads to inevitable decline, says the author of a March 22, 2018, perspective in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Alzheimer disease is actually "a heterogeneous spectrum disorder with varying pathologic subtypes and clinical courses," the author said.

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

Despite Hope for Early Warning Systems, Study Finds It Ineffective for Hospitalized Children

Beside Paediatric Early Warning Systems (PEWS) do not significantly reduce mortality rates or clinical deterioration events in hospitalized pediatric patients, according to a March 13, 2018, article published in *JAMA*.

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

Patient Risk of HAI Increases if Hospital Roommate or Last Bed Occupant Was Infected

Hospitalized patients are at more risk of acquiring a healthcare-associated infection (HAI) if their roommate or the prior bed occupant was infected, researchers concluded in a study published online February 28, 2018, in *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*.

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

What Are the Top Risks for Claims against Nurse Practitioners?

The most common claim allegations against nurse practitioners (NPs) are similar to those against primary care physicians, according to a new study from The Doctors Company. The report projects that by 2025, NPs will represent almost one third of the workforce in family practices, underscoring the need for NP-specific risk management strategies.

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

Women in Medicine Await Their #MeToo Movement

Medicine has yet to have its #MeToo movement, but women in healthcare organizations around the country say such a change is long overdue, according to a February 23, 2018, article by NBC News. More than a dozen women and experts in healthcare spoke with the news outlet, relating their experiences with sexual misconduct in the workplace and describing how commonplace they believe it has become.

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

Partnering with Hospitals May Be Nursing Facilities' Best Bet to Battle Infections

When it comes to infection prevention, nursing facilities are lagging behind acute care hospitals, according to a March 1, 2018, viewpoint article in *JAMA*. Acute care hospitals have embraced evidence-based interventions and developed resourceful and effective infection prevention teams, and as a result, have successfully reduced the number of central-line-associated bloodstream infections, surgical site infections, and *Clostridium difficile* infections.

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

"I Trusted My Doctor": Doctors Who Prescribe Most Opioids Also Receive the Most Money from Opioid Manufacturers

The more opioids a doctor prescribes, the more likely he or she receives large sums of money from opioid manufacturers, according to a March 12, 2018, analysis from CNN and researchers at Harvard University. The researchers found that in 2014 and 2015, hundreds of doctors received six-figure payments from opioid manufacturers for speaking, consulting, and other services.

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

Are Benzodiazepines Our Next Prescription Drug Crisis?

While much attention has been paid to the opioid epidemic, Americans may be ignoring a looming crisis related to overprescribing of benzodiazepines, according to the authors of a February 22, 2018, perspective in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Benzodiazepines, such as alprazolam, clonazepam, diazepam, and lorazepam, are prescribed for a diverse set of indications, including anxiety, insomnia, seizures, and acute alcohol withdrawal.

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