

# 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).

## News

### **A Cruel Irony: Bullying in Healthcare**

The majority of healthcare providers report being bullied during work or medical school, according to a June 14, 2018, article in the *New York Times*. This represents "a cruel irony," according to the author, director of the leukemia program at the Cleveland Clinics, because doctors and nurses pursue the career out of a desire to help people.

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

### **CDC Brief Describes Rise in U.S. Preterm Birth Rates**

From 2014 to 2016, the U.S. preterm birth rate—births at less than 37 weeks' gestation per 100 total births—rose 3%, from 9.57% to 9.85%, according to a June 2018 Data Brief from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

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

### **Should We Reconsider How Often We Intubate Older Patients?**

Around one-third of patients over the age of 65 who are placed on mechanical ventilation (intubation) die in the hospital, and only a quarter are discharged home, according to a June 22, 2018, article in the *New York Times*.

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

### **Transitioning versus Discharging: What You Call It Matters**

An integrated system works better than a fragmented one in facilitating smooth transitions between hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, according to a study published in the May 2018 issue of *The Gerontologist*.

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

### **The Clothes Make the Doctor: Patients Say Physician Attire Matters**

More than half of patients indicate that how a physician dresses is important to them, according to a new study in *BMJ Open*. The authors conducted a survey of a convenience sample of 4,062 patients at 10 academic hospitals from June 1, 2015, to October 31, 2016.

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

### **EConsult Systems Could Make Specialty Care More Accessible, But Also May Increase Primary Care Physician Burnout**

Although some primary care physicians were enthusiastic about the ability of an electronic consult (eConsult) system to increase access to specialty care providers, others were concerned that the system adds to their own workload, according to a study published in the June 2018 issue of *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

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

### **Video Observation versus Live Observation: Which Is More Effective at Improving Teamwork in the OR?**

Recorded observations may not be as effective as live observations when it comes to promoting teamwork and communication in the operating room (OR), according to an article published in the June 2018 issue of *Surgery*.

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

### **Brain Death: Who Decides What "Dead" Means?**

The definition, and even the concept, of brain death is undergoing public scrutiny, according to a May 28, 2018, article in *The Wall Street Journal*. Physicians have long had the authority to declare someone brain dead, which the article defines as "the irreversible cessation of all brain function, including the brain stem, even if heart and lung activity can be maintained by machines." But families are beginning to challenge this determination regarding their loved ones.

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