

# 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).

## Member Q&A

### Ask ECRI: Managing Unsolicited Patient Information and Records

A risk manager recently wrote to ECRI Institute asking for guidance in handling patient records received from previous treating providers. In some situations, providers may seek to retain only the portion of the record that they perceive as being relevant to the patient's current concerns, and may wish to discard the remaining records, viewing them as extraneous or fearing that they will add too much to the medical record and render it difficult to follow or navigate.

[Read the full response.](#)

## News

### Informal Interaction among Physicians Linked to Lower Surgery Costs

In a study of Medicare payments for patients undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) procedures, higher levels of informal integration among physicians caring for the patient were associated with lower Medicare spending, reports an article in the December 27, 2017, issue of *JAMA Surgery*.

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

### Treating the Bad Guys: How Did Florida ED Handle the Arrival of a School Shooter?

While treating the victims of a mass school shooting, doctors at a Florida hospital soon had another patient brought to their emergency department (ED)—the shooter. Their account was detailed in a February 20, 2018, article in the *New York Times*. The shooter, a 19-year old former student at the school, killed 17 people.

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

### **Let's Talk about Death: Organizations Prepare Clinicians for Difficult End-of-Life Discussions**

A February 12, 2018, report from Kaiser Health News details how more facilities are training their practitioners on how to have important end-of-life conversations with seriously ill patients that detail the patients' goals, values, and prognoses.

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

### **Florida School Shooting: Hospital Had Just Drilled for an Active Shooter Situation—Then it Faced the Real Thing**

A Florida hospital that had recently "ramped up" its preparation for an active shooter scenario faced the real thing after a shooter killed 17 people at a nearby high school, according to a February 16, 2018, article in the *Miami Herald*. The hospital had recently run a drill in which all available surgeons, anesthesiologists, and other medical staff were called in to set up trauma bays and receive patients with gunshot wounds.

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

### **First-Year Hospitalists May Benefit from Additional Support, Reduced Caseloads for Better Patient Outcomes**

Hospitalists just starting their careers may need more support than more experienced hospitalists to ensure optimal outcomes for their patients, concludes a study from the February 2018 *JAMA Internal Medicine*. The study examined data of Medicare patients treated by 3,860 hospitalists over a four-year period, starting with the physicians' first year as hospitalists.

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

### **Trying to Be “Perfect in an Imperfect World”: Strategies for Healing Healthcare’s Second Victims**

Strategies for supporting “second victims,” providers most directly involved in an adverse event, were highlighted in the January 22, 2018, issue of Quick Safety from the Joint Commission. When an adverse event occurs, providers may feel emotionally traumatized and have lasting effects that persist for as long as a year afterward, Joint Commission said.

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

### **Call an Ambulance! Or An Uber? Ride-Sharing Services Called Often In Emergencies**

People looking for a ride to the emergency department often choose a ride-sharing service over an ambulance, says a January 2, 2018, article published in the *NFPA Journal*. As drivers swap stories in online forums of dramatic medical emergencies playing out in their vehicles, public officials across the country are warning against the practice, and even Uber acknowledges the increasingly common and problematic practice.

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