

# 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

### Developing Sign-In and Sign-Out Policies

A risk manager at an assisted-living facility recently asked for guidance about developing a missing-persons policy, in particular resident sign-out practices. In our response, ECRI Institute notes that resident sign-out and sign-in practices need to be bundled with other procedures. [Read more in the full response.](#)

## News

### Behavioral Health Events Are Underreported; Patient Safety Focus Is Overdue

Only about one third of safety events involving hospitalized behavioral health patients are reported, according to one of the few analyses ever conducted of event reporting by inpatient behavioral health units. [Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)

### Tracking "Cranky Words" in Override Comments Can Reveal Clinical Decision Support Problems

Hospitals that wish to uncover malfunctions in their clinical decision support (CDS) alerts should consider monitoring free-text override comments on a regular basis, according to the authors of a study published in *JAMIA* on December 26, 2018. [Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)

### Judge Older Surgeons by Their Functional Abilities, Not Their Age

As the surgical population in the United States ages, decisions about surgical competency "should be based on functional age and abilities rather than chronologic age," according to a viewpoint article published by *JAMA* January 14, 2019. [Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)

### Virtual Reality Offers a View into the Life of a Fictional Hospice Patient

Nurses, hospice workers, and students can see what the world looks like through the eyes of a patient in hospice, at least virtually, according to a December 27, 2018, NPR article. Several healthcare

organizations and facilities are using virtual reality simulations to offer a view of what life is like for hospice patients. [Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)

### **WHO Lists Vaccine Hesitancy among Its Top Threats to Global Health; Several States Facing Measles Outbreaks**

Vaccine hesitancy and antimicrobial resistance are among the World Health Organization's (WHO) Ten Threats to Global Health in 2019. The reluctance or refusal to vaccinate, WHO says, "threatens to reverse progress made in tackling vaccine-preventable diseases." [Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)