

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.

Meeting Patients' Behavioral Health Needs in Acute Care

New Deep Dive from ECRI Institute Patient Safety Organization (PSO)

Our new ECRI Institute PSO Deep Dive explores how hospitals can meet patients' behavioral health needs in nonpsychiatric areas of the hospital. Failing to meet patients' behavioral health needs has implications for patient safety, quality of care, occupational health, patient and staff satisfaction, security and risk management, legal and regulatory compliance, public relations, and the organization's operations and finances.

Download the new Deep Dive Executive Brief today at www.ecri.org/behavioralhealth.

Member Q&A

Managing Patient-Owned CPAP Machines and Other Patient-Owned Equipment

A risk manager recently asked for guidance on policies for managing patient-owned continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) or bilevel positive airway pressure (BiPAP) machines. The member noted that the organization currently allows such machines to be used without a waiver during a patient's hospital stay, and asked whether such waivers should be in place and what they should contain. In our response, ECRI Institute notes that healthcare organizations have a duty to ensure the safety of equipment and devices used in their facilities.

[Read more in the full response.](#)

Culture Change: Patients Should Be Empowered to “Stop the Line”

Patients should be empowered to "stop the line" when they suspect something is wrong with their care, according to a November 22, 2018, editorial in *BMJ Safety and Quality*. The concept of stopping the line originated in the manufacturing industry.

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

Sales Reps in the OR: Costly Guests or Valuable Experts?

Medical device sales representatives are common in the operating room (OR), but debate continues regarding how appropriate their presence is, according to a November 23, 2018, NPR article.

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

Mass Shooting Leaves Four Dead, Including Two Hospital Employees and a Police Officer

Four people—an emergency department (ED) doctor, a pharmacy resident, a police officer, and the gunman—were killed in a shooting at a Chicago hospital on November 19, 2018, according to news reports. The shooting began when the gunman got into an altercation with his ex-fiancée, an ED doctor, in the facility parking lot, according to a November 19, 2018, article in *the Chicago Sun-Times*.

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

Nurse Workload, Particularly Subjective Workload, Linked to Missed Nursing Care in NICU

Increased subjective workloads for neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) nurses were consistently associated with missed nursing care for infants, according to a November 12, 2018, study published in *JAMA Pediatrics*. Objective workloads were also significantly associated with missed care in the study of 136 nurses caring for 418 infants across 332 shifts, the authors said.

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

California Wildfires: Hospital Safely Evacuated Patients, But What about Staff?

Hospitals across California are dealing with the effects of a series of wildfires that have sprung up across two parts of the state, according to a November 9, 2018, release from the California Hospital Association. In Northern California, where the Camp Fire has become the deadliest wildfire in state history, it took about 20 minutes to successfully evacuate one hospital, according to a November 11, 2018, article from NBC News. A nurse credited the hospital's emphasis on fire drills for the timely evacuation. However, getting staff to safety was challenging.

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

A Band-Aid: Medical Scribes Could Reduce EHR-Related Burnout, But Long-Term Solutions are Needed

Use of medical scribes could mitigate the burden related to electronic health record (EHR) documentation and subsequent burnout, according to a study in the November 2018 issue of *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

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

Lost in Translation: Doctors Cautioned against Using Google Translate

The use of Google Translate could introduce communication errors during consultations with patients, according to an October 29, 2018, article in *The BMJ*. The article was written in response to recent findings that doctors in the United Kingdom were using Google Translate to overcome language barriers with patients.

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

Four Steps Hospitals Can Take to Reduce Maternal Mortality

Hospitals can take four steps to reduce maternal mortality, according to the authors of a November 1, 2018, perspective in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The first step in reducing this trend is expanding the focus on preventable causes of obstetrical complications and deaths, the authors said. This can include implementing best-practice care bundles at all birthing facilities.

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