

# Patient Safety, Risk, and Quality Update

From Allied World and ECRI Institute

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## Member Q&A

### **Ask ECRI: Patient Responsibility for Following Up on Test Results**

A risk manager recently asked for guidance on the patient's responsibility in following up on the results of tests that have been ordered. In our response, we note that providers are responsible for reviewing and following up on the results of the tests they order. That responsibility typically includes ensuring that results that require involvement of patients or action on their part are communicated to patients. However, ECRI Institute recommends reporting all test results to patients, including results that are normal or not clinically significant.

[Read the full response.](#)

## News

### **Asymptomatic Bacteriuria: a Strong Candidate for Antibiotic Stewardship**

Asymptomatic bacteriuria can be successfully managed without unnecessary antibiotic treatment, suggests an implementation guide published December 11, 2017, in *JAMA Internal Medicine*. Asymptomatic bacteriuria is condition in which large numbers of bacteria are present in a patient's urine, but symptoms do not exist.

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

### **Hat Trick: Operating-Room Workers Write Their Names on Their Caps to Avoid Mix-Ups**

The requirement that all surgical staff introduce themselves prior to surgery is one of the most commonly missed items on the World Health Organization's surgical checklist, and hospitals in Australia are attempting to tackle the problem in a novel way, according to a December 13, 2017, article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

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

### **Overlapping Surgery Associated with Increased Risk of Complications during Hip Surgeries**

Overlapping surgery is rare, say the authors of a recent study published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, but patients whose hip surgeries were "double-booked" were almost twice as likely to have postoperative complications such as infection, early revision, or dislocation. The study involved analyzing data from 2009–2014 from 960 hip fracture procedures and 1,560 total hip arthroplasty procedures that were performed while the attending surgeon was supervising another procedure in a different operating room at the same time for at least 30 minutes.

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

### **People Unaware That They Have Been Infected Account for 40% of HIV Transmissions, Says CDC**

Persons unaware that they have been infected with HIV account for about 40% of ongoing transmissions of the disease in the United States, according to an article in the December 1, 2017, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The authors analyzed data from CDC's National HIV Surveillance System and found that an estimated 15% of people living with HIV were unaware they carried the infection in 2015.

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

### **History Repeats Itself: Past Hurricanes Taught Houston Hospitals How To Prepare for Hurricane Harvey**

Lessons learned from past storms left many Houston-area hospitals relatively unscathed during Hurricane Harvey, according to an article in the November/December issue of the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) *NFPA Journal*. One large Houston health system discussed in the article evacuated only one of its 17 hospitals during the storm, the article said. [Read the full summary and HRC Recommendations.](#)