

Patient Safety, Risk, and Quality Update

From Allied World and ECRI Institute

June 2018

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.

Member Q&A

Ask HRC: The Waiting Room Philanthropist

A risk manager recently asked ECRI Institute for help identifying and managing risks with a situation dubbed their "waiting room philanthropist," in which the widow of a cancer patient periodically visits the waiting room of the hospital's outpatient oncology clinic and hands out \$100 bills to everyone in the waiting room. The woman is not herself a patient. The hospital knows when she is coming but does not announce her presence. She does not enter treatment areas or visit inpatient areas. In our response, ECRI Institute notes that the woman's efforts and generosity are laudable. There are, however, several risks to consider. [Read the full response.](#)

News

WHO Campaign Promotes Hand Hygiene for Sepsis Prevention

The World Health Organization (WHO) is calling on healthcare facilities to make sepsis prevention a focus of their hand hygiene efforts. Each year, WHO's "Clean Your Hands" campaign features a unique call to action, which is announced on May 5, World Hand Hygiene Day. This year's theme is "It's in Your Hands: Prevent Sepsis in Health Care."

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

"It's All in Your Head": New York Times Looks at Physicians' Tendency to Dismiss Concerns of Women Patients

Physicians downplaying or dismissing the concerns of women is a "huge issue in medicine," according to a physician quoted in a May 3, 2018, article in the *New York Times*. Doctors and nurses prescribe less pain medication for women than for men after surgery, even though women report more frequent and severe pain levels, the article said.

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

Learning from "Lone Wolf" Terrorist Attacks

First responders at the 2017 Las Vegas shooting share eight lessons learned for handling so-called lone wolf terrorist attacks in an April 24, 2018, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) blog.

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

Victim-Centered Response to Human Trafficking Restores Control to Victims, Says Speaker

Human trafficking is, "unfortunately, a big business, and it can happen to anyone," said Margaret Hambleton, MBA, CHC, CHPC, vice president and corporate compliance officer, Dignity Health, speaking April 27, 2018, at the spring conference of the Wisconsin Society for Healthcare Risk Management.

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

"Just Text Me": Should Providers and Parents Text about Kids' Care?

Text messages are a "convenient, accessible, and efficient" means of communication between parents and providers after pediatric surgery, according to an article in the April 2018 issue of the *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing*.

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

When Pregnancy Is at or beyond Term, Is It Safer to Induce or Keep Waiting?

Although the optimal timing is not yet clear, a policy of inducing labor at or beyond term is linked to lower rates of perinatal death and stillbirth than is a policy of waiting for spontaneous labor or an indication for induction (called expectant management), according to a Cochrane review published May 9, 2018.

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

Could the Promise of a Day Off from Work Increase Flu Vaccination Rates?

Offering healthcare workers one day off from work as a reward for getting the flu vaccine was the intervention associated with the greatest increase in vaccination rates, according to a study in the June 2018 issue of the *Journal of Hospital Infection*. The authors analyzed actions taken to increase flu vaccinations for healthcare workers in Greece during the 2016-2017 flu season.

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

"Subscribing" to the Patient in Room 328: New Tool Enables Clinicians to Act on Patient Information in Real Time

What if physicians could "subscribe" to their patients, the way we subscribe to online "feeds" about our favorite sports teams, stock quotes, or news alerts? What if physicians could receive relevant clinical information from their patients' electronic health records (EHRs) at the time the information is

most needed, rather than having to passively access the system at a random opportunity in the day's busy schedule?

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