

Patient Safety, Risk, and Quality Update

From Allied World and ECRI Institute

May 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 ECRI: Working with Rideshare Services for Resident-Requested Transport

ECRI Institute has received multiple inquiries about ridesharing services, such as Uber and Lyft. Specifically, the questions center around new offerings from these companies allowing aging services organizations and other healthcare entities to book rides on behalf of their residents and patients who do not have a ridesharing account. Aging services organizations have sought guidance about the possible risks from teaming up with ridesharing services to provide resident-requested transport. While ridesharing programs can help to safely meet the transportation needs of some residents, sound risk mitigation practices, such as contract review and establishment of guidelines and rules, should be developed so that the service ultimately contributes to a resident's quality of life without creating scenarios that have the potential to cause harm.

[Read the full response.](#)

Ask ECRI: Patient Recordings in a Physician's Office

A risk manager recently sought guidance for handling patients who wish to record encounters with providers. In our response, ECRI Institute recommended first consulting with legal counsel to determine any applicable laws on consent to be recorded and whether one or both parties must provide consent.

[Read the full response.](#)

Could “Zero Falls” Policies Have a Negative Effect on Patient Safety?

Setting a goal of zero falls places high pressure on nurses and could lead to unintended consequences for both nursing staff and patients, according to a study in the March 2018 issue of *The Gerontologist*.

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

Headlines Discuss Advance Care Planning Controversies in Patients with Dementia, EHRs

A document allowing patients to designate in advance that they do not want water or food in the case they develop severe dementia has been approved by a New York end-of-life agency, according to a March 29, 2018, article in *NPR*.

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

Does Granting Physicians Immunity from Malpractice Liability Improve Safety, Reduce Claims?

Granting sovereign immunity from malpractice liability to physicians at a public hospital did not adversely affect patient safety, suggests an article published in the April 2018 issue of *Health Management, Policy & Innovation*. In fact, the incidence of serious harm decreased over time.

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

CDC: Containment Strategy Can Prevent, Manage “Nightmare Bacteria” Outbreaks

More than 220 cases of germs with unusual antibiotic resistance (AR), or "nightmare bacteria," were found in 2017 by U.S. health departments working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) AR Lab Network, according to CDC's recent *Vital Signs* report.

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

Is Computer Vision the Superhuman Assistance Physicians Need? Artificial Intelligence Might Increase Patient Safety

Physicians might find a superhuman assistant by putting computer vision to work in a clinical setting, according to an April 5, 2018 perspective in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

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

System’s Daily Safety Huddles Decreased Time Required to Investigate and Close Events by 77%

Implementing daily safety huddles led to measurable improvements in several areas of patient safety and quality at a Massachusetts health system, according to a March 28, 2018, article from the Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety.

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

Man Who Dressed as Spider-Man and Washed Windows at Children's Hospital Was Child Pornographer

A 36-year-old man who was known for dressing up as Spider-Man to clean the windows of a Nashville children's hospital was sentenced to 105 years in federal prison for producing and transporting child pornography, according to an April 18, 2018, article in the *Washington Post*.

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