

# 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).

## Designing the Perfect Patient Room

### What Happens When You Hold a Contest and No One Wins?

That's the situation that the Boston-based Healthcare Associated Infections Organization (HAIO) recently found itself facing. The contest featured seven of the top architecture firms in the city competing to design the perfect patient room—melding infection control with patient comfort. The firm with the best idea would win the opportunity to implement the room its team designed on a renovated floor at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Each design was unique and innovative. In fact, the group soon realized that settling on just one winner would be impossible.

So HAIO made patient safety the winner. What followed was nothing short of groundbreaking. Seven rival architects came together and set aside professional competitiveness to design a perfect patient room. The HAIO collaborative met for six four-hour meetings, with members sharing their expertise, learning from each other and from infection control specialists, and getting an advanced course on the meaning of the term "evidence-based."

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

## Member Q&A

### Encouraging Reporting of Violent Patient Incidents

A risk manager recently sought resources to encourage staff to report incidents of patient violence and aggression that staff may perceive as less serious because no staff injury results. The member cites spitting or hair pulling as examples of such incidents. In our response, we note that the first step in encouraging reporting is for the organization to define the types of incidents it wants to track and design a form that reflects this desire.

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

### **"I'm Going to Kill You": Politico Article Details Rise in ED Violence**

A number of factors—from higher hospital bills, to inability to obtain painkillers, to untreated mental illness—are causing an increase in violence in American emergency departments (EDs), [according to a July 2, 2018, article](#) (subscription required) from *Politico*.

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

### **Report Finds Radiologists Named in 15% of Diagnosis-Related Claims, Suggests Guidelines to Improve Patient Care**

Radiologists played a role in 15% of diagnosis-related claims, 80% of which involved the misinterpretation of clinical tests, according to the August 2018 issue of the *Red Signal Report*, published by Coverys, a medical professional liability insurer. The report provides analysis of 10,692 claims made that closed between 2013 and 2017, of which 595 claims named a radiologist.

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

### **Study Offers Guidance on Appropriate Use of Indwelling Urinary Catheters to Reduce CAUTI**

A panel of physicians and nurses has defined three scenarios for appropriate use of indwelling catheters with a goal of minimizing their use and reducing the risk of catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), according to a study published August 12, 2018, by *BMJ Quality & Safety*.

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

### **In Medical Profession and Colleges, Stigma, Shame, and Burnout Can Lead to Suicide**

Estimates on physician suicide have said 300 to 400 physicians are lost each year to suicide, according to a report on physician suicide published August 1, 2018, on Medscape. Inaccurate death reporting or coding makes it difficult to know precisely how many physicians commit suicide each year, but the medical profession consistently ranks near the top of the list of occupations that have a high rate, the report says.

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

### **"By No Means Have I Changed My Vax Stance": Nurse Posts about Patient's Measles on Social Media**

A Texas hospital is investigating one of its nurses after discovering that she posted in an anti-vaccine Facebook group about a patient who tested positive for measles, according to an August 29, 2018, article from ABC News.

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

### **Study Finds EHR Installation May Affect Physician and Patient Satisfaction with Care Quality, Information Flow, Work Processes**

Installing an electronic health record (EHR) may cause greater physician satisfaction and increased patient dissatisfaction, according to a study in the August 2018 issue of *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*. Using surveys to examine the effects of EHR installation on both provider satisfaction with information flow and patient satisfaction with their quality of care at obstetrician-gynecology (OB-GYN) offices, researchers found mixed results.

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

### **Is Home-Based Care the Hospital of the Future?**

Providing hospital-level care at a patient's home plus 30 days of postacute care as an alternative to hospitalization after an emergency department (ED) visit has the potential to improve patient outcomes, according to a study published in the August 2018 *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

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

### **New York Times Looks at "Post-Hospital Syndrome"**

Complications that arise after hospital discharge, the so-called post-hospital syndrome, may be a major reason behind high rates of hospital readmission among older patients, according to an August 3, 2018, article in the *New York Times*.

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

### **Study: Hand Sanitizers Becoming Less Effective against *Enterococcus faecium***

A study published in the August 1, 2018, issue of *Science Translational Medicine* found that the bacterium *Enterococcus faecium* is becoming increasingly resistant to the alcohol-based hand rubs typically used in hospitals. *E. faecium*, which lives in the gut, can cause various infections to those exposed to it, including infections of the abdomen, skin, urinary tract, and bloodstream, according to an August 2, 2018, CNN article about the study.

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

### **Paging Dr. Sandman: Simple Changes Could Increase Sleep Quantity and Quality for Hospitalized Patients**

Patients in the hospital sleep for shorter durations and have their sleep interrupted more frequently; wake up earlier; and experience poorer sleep quality than when they are at home, according to a July 16, 2018, original investigation in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

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

### **Surgery in Patients with Modifiable Risk Factors: Whose Decision Is It?**

When patients contemplating elective surgery have modifiable risk factors for surgical complications (e.g., smoking, obesity, uncontrolled diabetes), "we believe that encouraging modification of such . . . factors is ethically justified, since it benefits both patients and society," write the authors of an article in the July 26, 2018, *New England Journal of Medicine*. However, outright refusal to perform surgery

for these patients or imposition of requirements to achieve certain targets are ethically problematic, they state.

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