

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.

News

Are Providers in Your Organization at Risk for "Diagnostic Overshadowing"?

Providers must be careful not to succumb to "diagnostic overshadowing," in which new symptoms are erroneously attributed to an underlying health condition, says the author of a May 30, 2019, perspective in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Can a Home-Based Exercise Program Reduce Risk of Falls?

Participation in a home-based exercise program, focusing on strength training and balance exercise, significantly reduced falls among community-dwelling older adults, according to a June 4, 2019, study in *JAMA*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Five Tips from AORN and Joint Commission to Reduce Wrong-Site Surgeries

Wrong-site surgery remains one of the most frequently reported adverse events, according to a June 4, 2019, Joint Commission blog post written by the chief executive officer and director of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN). The author recommends five ways the perioperative team can reduce risk for wrong-site surgery, starting with understanding where risks for wrong-site surgeries arise in the perioperative system.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Study Says Surgeons' Abrasive Behavior and Postoperative Complications May Be Related

Surgeons who display unprofessional behavior may undermine their teams, thereby increasing the risk for medical errors and surgical complications, as well as compromising an organization's culture of safety, according to a June 19, 2019, study in *JAMA Surgery*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Medical Errors Remain a Persistent Problem across All Healthcare Settings

Despite recent improvements and investments, medical errors remain "a persistent challenge in all healthcare settings," say the authors of a June 2019 report from the Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Drill Weekly for Disasters, Says Orlando Hospital That Treated Nightclub Shooting Victims

Organizations should "drill weekly" for mass casualty events, the president of an Orlando hospital and its trauma medical director recommend—a key lesson learned from the 2016 mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub, according to a May 17, 2019, Joint Commission blog post.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Can Minors Legally Obtain Vaccines without Their Parents' Consent?

The legality of vaccinating children who seek vaccination over the objection of their parents is the focus of a June 5, 2019, perspective in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Given the potential benefits of vaccination, the authors recommend that states enact laws expanding access to minors who consent to vaccination and who are at least 12 to 14 years old.

[Read the full summary.](#)