

# 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).

## Coronavirus Outbreak Preparedness Center

The World Health Organization named the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. First reported from Wuhan, China, the virus has rapidly spread across continents, with more than 20,000 confirmed cases and hundreds of deaths. The epidemic poses a **potent economic threat** as well as a public health crisis.

Hospitals that are currently assessing their preparedness or actively responding to 2019-nCoV are looking for alternative suppliers of certain personal protective equipment (PPE). While most facilities may have adequate supplies of goggles, masks, and gowns on hand for emergencies and infectious outbreaks, shortages may occur.

In keeping with its mission of effective, evidence-based healthcare globally, ECRI has developed a **Coronavirus Outbreak Preparedness Center** to help hospitals protect healthcare workers as well as patients. This site includes:

- Preparation and patient handling checklists
- Equipment and alternative supplier lists
- Patient care equipment evaluations, including portable ventilators
- Recommendations for infection control
- Links to Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization

This compendium of resources is freely available to the public and will be updated as newer information becomes available.

See the Resource Center at <https://www.ecri.org/coronavirus-outbreak-preparedness-center>

## News

### Patient Safety Trends to Look for in 2020

Increasing patient advocacy, improving the work environment for clinicians, transforming into high-reliability organizations, and focusing on safety in surgery centers represent four patient safety trends

for 2020, according to a Joint Commission patient safety expert interviewed in a January 8, 2020, article from HealthLeaders Media.

**[Read the full summary.](#)**

### **What Impact Does Hospital Type Have on Maternal Outcomes?**

Women are at greater risk for postpartum death following complications when giving birth—from postpartum hemorrhage in particular—in for-profit hospitals than in teaching hospitals, according to a French study published in the January 2020 issue of *Anesthesia & Analgesia*.

**[Read the full summary](#)**

### **Healthcare Hotspotting Isn't the Cure for Reducing Readmissions of Most Expensive Patients**

A popular approach to reducing the number of hospital stays among "superutilizers" of healthcare services through enhanced care coordination, called healthcare hotspotting, has not resulted in fewer readmissions, according to the results of a study published on January 9, 2020, in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

**[Read the full summary.](#)**

### **The Paperwork Crisis and Clinician Burnout**

Overwork for physicians and nurses is a dire problem, tied to the documentation demands of the electronic health record and sometimes leading to burnout, depression, substance abuse, and suicidality, says a December 31, 2019, *New York Times* analysis.

**[Read the full summary.](#)**

### **And On His Farm He Had Some *C. Diff*: Community Source of Common HAI Identified**

Residing near certain sources of environment exposure, such as livestock farms, is associated with an increased risk of a patient carrying *C. difficile*, according to a January 10, 2020, article in *JAMA Network Open*.

**[Read the full summary.](#)**