

Patient Safety, Risk, and Quality Update

From Allied World and ECRI

June 2020

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

Decision-Making Algorithms Can Be Biased, Too

Physicians should analyze clinical algorithms that include race or ethnicity corrections in order to judge "with fresh eyes" whether such adjustments are appropriate, according to the authors of a June 17, 2020, article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

FDA Revokes Emergency Authorization for Two Drugs Used for COVID-19, Warns of Potential Drug Interaction

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has revoked its emergency use authorization for hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine as treatments for coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the agency said in a June 15, 2020, letter.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Five Ways Health Systems Can Address Structural Racism

Desegregating the healthcare workforce and understanding that lack of diversity is a form of racial exclusion can help health systems address structural racism, according to the authors of a June 10, 2020, perspective in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

"Very Alarming": Pediatric Hospitalizations Dropping for Many Conditions Because of COVID-19

Pediatric hospitalizations for six potentially serious conditions have declined compared with 2019 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, with hospitalizations for asthma dropping the most precipitously (68.7%), according to a June 2020 study from the insurer Cigna.

[Read the full summary.](#)

How Can Healthcare Organizations Begin to Reduce Inequities and Biases?

Addressing health disparities through a "conscious and systematic effort," including collecting and analyzing data on race, evaluating differences in outcomes, and regularly discussing why disparities could exist, are ways healthcare organizations can begin to reduce inequities and biases, says the Health Care Improvement Foundation (HCIF) in a June 3, 2020, statement.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Joint Commission Surveys Resuming in June with Safety Precautions

On May 27, 2020, Joint Commission announced that it will resume some survey and review activities in June, with changes in place to ensure patient safety.

[Read the full summary.](#)

A Framework for When a Patient Asks, "Should I Go Back to Work?"

Healthcare organizations may be interested in a proposed framework for counseling patients about working during the pandemic, featured in a May 26, 2020, viewpoint from the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

[Read the full summary.](#)