

# Patient Safety, Risk, and Quality Update

From Allied World and ECRI

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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).

## Responding to COVID-19

ECRI's [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) includes a new section focusing on resources of interest to risk managers, all of which are available with no login. Resources include high-priority device alerts, frequently asked questions, ECRI webinars and lab tours, evidence assessments, and more.

Recent updates include the following:

- [Strategies for the Use of Homemade Facemasks](#)
- [Routine and Terminal Cleaning of Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Patient Rooms](#)
- [Use of Novel Intubation Boxes Does Not Reduce the Need for Appropriate PPE and Intubation Precautions](#)
- [Shortages of Intensive Care Ventilators—Strategies for Mitigation](#)
- [Coronavirus Support Product Equivalents](#)

## News

### Outcomes Thus Far among Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19 in the New York City Area

More than one-fifth (21%) of the 5,700 patients hospitalized in the New York City area with confirmed COVID-19 died from the illness, including 25% of patients requiring mechanical ventilation, according to April 22, 2020, study in *JAMA* reporting outcomes thus far for patients hospitalized between March 1 and April 4, 2020.

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

### For States Expanding Telehealth Services, CMS Rolls Out Toolkit to Identify Concerns

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the State Medicaid & CHIP Telehealth Toolkit to help states identify policy topics to facilitate widespread adoption of telehealth services.

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

### **Remdesivir in COVID-19: Early Data Are Promising**

Though results are far from certain, early data on use of remdesivir to treat COVID-19 are encouraging, according to an April 16, 2020, article from *STAT News*.

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

### **ACS, CMS Issue Guidance for Ramping Up Preparation for Elective Surgeries**

New guidance from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) can help organizations assess local facility capability and any potential constraints to begin "ramping up" preparation for elective surgeries.

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

### **Patient Safety and COVID-19: The Italian Experience**

The International Society for Quality in Health Care on April 7, 2020, published Patient Safety Recommendations for COVID-19 Epidemic Outbreak: Lessons from the Italian Experience.

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

### **An Algorithm for Determining Operating Room Precautions during COVID-19**

A decision tree for determining operating room precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic that begins by assuming all patients are infected and then stratifies them into either an "emergency" or "urgent" group, is the focus of an April 2, 2020, article in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*.

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

### **Ways Behavioral Health Organizations Can Prepare for COVID-19, from Joint Commission**

Social distancing "takes on a whole new meaning" and will require significant planning in behavioral health settings, Joint Commission says in a March 24, 2020, blog post.

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