



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's Health System Risk Management and related services. If you have any questions, please email Ajay Aggarwal at Ajay.Aggarwal@awac.com.

News

Hand Hygiene by Healthcare Workers Increased, Then Decreased, during the Pandemic, Study Says

During the COVID-19 pandemic, hand hygiene compliance improved initially in acute care hospitals, but improvements have not been sustained, according to a January 2021 article in the *American Journal of Infection Control*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

AHRQ Case Study: Difficulties of Diagnosing Breast Cancer, and How to Battle Diagnostic Delay

Evaluating a breast lump is a complex process that is easily influenced by cognitive errors and system failures, notes the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in a December 2020 case study of a 60-year-old woman with breast cancer.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Early Intervention at LTC Facilities May Curb Hospital Admissions, Shorten Lengths of Stay

A nurse-led early intervention program was both effective and cost-effective in preventing unnecessary hospital admissions in long-term care (LTC) residents in Australia, according to a December 7, 2020, article published in *BMC Geriatrics*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Study: COVID-19 Mortality Rates in Hospitals Seem to Decline When Community Infection Rates Decline

Despite variations across the United States, coronavirus (COVID-19) mortality rates seem to be lower when the prevalence of COVID-19 in the hospital's surrounding community is lower, reports a December 22, 2020, study in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Telemedicine Study Reveals Disparities Based on Race, Age, Other Factors

A study of about 148,000 ambulatory care patients identified racial, ethnic, sex, age, language, and socioeconomic differences among those accessing telemedicine as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in End-of-Life Care of Nursing Home Residents

Disparities in advance care planning, end-of-life hospitalizations, and pain management for Hispanic and Black nursing home residents are identified in a systematic review published January 9, 2021, in the *Journal of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine*.

[Read the full summary.](#)