

Patient Safety, Risk, and Quality Update

From Allied World and ECRI

April 2021

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

SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies Linger for up to Six Months in Majority of Older Adults, Study Shows

A small study of older adults in a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs nursing home showed that 91% (10 of 11 residents) who had tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 by polymerase chain reaction still had antibodies six months later, although the antibody amounts decreased over time, according to a research letter in the March 1, 2021, issue of *JAMDA*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Wait 7 or More Weeks after SARS-CoV-2 Diagnosis for Surgery, Large Study Recommends

Patients who underwent surgery within six weeks of a SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis were at a higher risk of 30-day postoperative mortality and 30-day postoperative pulmonary complications, but these risks declined to baseline among patients who underwent surgery seven or more weeks after diagnosis, says a March 9, 2021, study in *Anaesthesia*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Study Recommends Three Methods for Decontaminating N95 Respirators

Effective and simple methods for decontaminating filtering facepiece respirators (N95 respirators) include ultraviolet germicidal irradiation, moist heat, and microwave-generated steam processing, a March 3, 2021, review in *JAMA* says.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Lack of Sleep, Burnout May Increase COVID-19 Risk among High-Risk Healthcare Workers, Study Says

Longer sleep duration is associated with lower odds of COVID-19 diagnosis, and greater sleep problems and higher levels of burnout are robustly associated with greater odds of COVID-19

diagnosis, says a March 22, 2021, study in *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health* of high-risk healthcare workers across the globe.

[Read the full summary.](#)

In Philadelphia, Phone Calls Fare Better than Online Scheduling for Increasing COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance

When a Philadelphia health system invited 10,000 patients to register for COVID-19 vaccination through its online portal, the acceptance rate was just 15%, but after following up with phone calls, the acceptance rate jumped to about 80%, says a February 23, 2021, article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

COVID-19 Significantly Reduced Outpatient Imaging Procedures, Study Shows

COVID-19 had a significant impact on the number of outpatient imaging procedures such as radiography, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging and on imaging appointment no-shows at a New York City multicenter healthcare system, according to a study published January 31, 2021, in *Clinical Imaging*.

[Read the full summary.](#)

Recent Research Shows How Systemic Inequities Affect Black and Low-Income Patients

Two research letters in the March 23/30, 2021, issue of *JAMA* report on systemic inequities among providers and in facilities serving Black or low-income patients.

[Read the full summary.](#)