

# Patient Safety, Risk, and Quality Update

From Allied World and ECRI

October 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](mailto:Ajay.Aggarwal@awac.com).

## News

### **U.K. Analysis: 11% of Patients in First Wave of COVID-19 Acquired Infection in the Hospital**

During the first wave of the pandemic, approximately 11% of patients with COVID-19 in 314 hospitals in the United Kingdom became infected after hospital admission, increasing to at least 15.8% by mid-May 2020, say the authors of an August 12, 2021, letter to *The Lancet*.

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

### **Triggers to Detect Adverse Drug Events in Older Patients with Multimorbidity**

With the consensus of a panel of experts, researchers have developed a set of triggers for detecting adverse drug events in older patients with multimorbidity, says a study in the September 2021 issue of the *Journal of Patient Safety*.

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

### **Psychological Safety Is Necessary for Error Prevention but Depends on Situational Context**

Situational context, including the team leader, individual team member personalities, the need for rapid decisions, and assignment of responsibility for making those decisions, has a strong influence on the psychological safety of healthcare workers in settings worldwide, according to a study published August 5, 2021, in *BMC Health Services Research*.

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

### **Which Factors Influence Providers to Disclose Adverse Events?**

Institutional support is one of the main factors influencing the willingness of healthcare professionals to disclose severe avoidable adverse events and apologize to patients, according to an article in the September 2021 issue of the *Journal of Patient Safety*.

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

### **Email on "Good Prescribing" Results in Reduction of Prescribing Errors among Junior Doctors**

A "good prescribing tip" email resulted in a statistically significant reduction in U.K. junior doctors' prescribing error rates on medical wards (6.8% to 4.5%) and on surgical wards (8.4% to 6.2%), an August 26, 2021, study in the *Journal of Patient Safety and Risk Management* says.

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

### **Hospital-Wide Child Maltreatment Safety Program Can Help Address Gaps in Abuse Cases**

A hospital-wide child maltreatment safety program can identify and address gaps in child maltreatment cases in all types of medical encounters and areas of a hospital, says a study in the September 2021 issue of *Pediatrics*.

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

### **Postsurgery Recall of Surgery Benefits Noted with Procedure-Specific Patient Consent Form**

Using procedure-specific consent forms for total hip replacement, patients improved their recall of benefits associated with the surgery, according to a study in the September 2021 *Journal of Patient Safety*.

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

### **Nearly Half of Nurses in Study Were Not Able to Self-Assess Their Own Fatigue**

Almost half of nurses (46%) were not able to accurately assess their own level of fatigue, according to a study in the October 2021 issue of *The Journal of Nursing Administration*.

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

### **Telehealth Use in Physician Practices Grew to 70% in 2020, AMA Says**

Physician practices that use telehealth visits such as videoconferencing and phone calls to diagnose and treat patients or manage chronic diseases grew from 14% to 70% over a two-year period, according to the Physician Practice Benchmark Survey released in September 2021 by the American Medical Association.

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

### **Emoji: A Millennial Fad or the Future of Patient Communication?**

Emoji are more than just a millennial fad – they are a "preloaded, curated, digital set of images that work across platforms" that "possess the power of standardization, universality, and familiarity to users," say the authors of a September 7, 2021, *JAMA* article.

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