

Patient Safety, Risk, and Quality Update

From Allied World and ECRI

February 2022

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 Emma Lisi at Emma.Lisi@awac.com.

Top 10 Health Technology Hazards for 2022

ECRI's Top 10 Health Technology Hazards list, now in its 15th year, identifies the potential sources of danger we believe warrant the greatest attention for the coming year and offers practical recommendations for reducing the risks.

The 2022 list includes many first-time topics, including several that build upon the key theme from our 2021 list—the need to build stronger and more resilient processes, leveraging innovations developed and lessons learned during the COVID-19 crisis.

The No. 1 topic addresses what has become a persistent, critical challenge—cybersecurity. Specifically, the need to safeguard healthcare operations against near-certain attacks that go beyond disruption of business operations and pose a real risk of physical harm.

The list also includes critical issues with medical devices that can lead to medication errors, as well as how issues with PPE and Artificial Intelligence can impact patient safety. In addition, several topics on this year's list reflect challenges that have arisen as a result of the stresses and technological changes associated with addressing a global pandemic:

- Supply chain shortcomings
- Insufficient and poorly maintained emergency stockpiles
- Suboptimal telehealth implementations

[Register to download the executive brief](#)

Usability of COVID-19 Antigen Home Test Kits

Rapid COVID-19 home tests provide results in under an hour, often in under 10 minutes. These at home tests are more convenient and allow consumers to avoid long wait-times at testing centers, thereby helping mitigate community spread.

ECRI conducted a usability evaluation to determine if there were any differences in ease of use for the rapid COVID-19 tests. ECRI's unique work adds important guidance to help our nation during a global pandemic. If and when supplies of home tests are more widely available, this report will help guide consumer's choice based on ease of use.

Our report, **Usability of COVID-19 Antigen Home Test Kits**, provides ease-of-use ratings and pros and cons for the following seven rapid tests that ECRI purchased through online and retail stores in December 2021.

[View the full report](#)

News

Nurses Have Faced Extensive Communication Challenges during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Communication challenges and barriers, prioritization of patient communication, integration of group communication, nurse self-reflection, and acceptance of gratitude during the COVID-19 pandemic are among the themes researchers found in a study published in the January 2022 issue of the *American Journal of Nursing*.

[Read the full summary and see how ECRI can help.](#)

Study Identifies Communication Failures in Nearly Half of Malpractice Claims

Failures in communication contribute significantly to malpractice claims and pose a significant threat to patient safety, says a December 15, 2021, study in the *Journal of Patient Safety*.

[Read the full summary and see how ECRI can help.](#)

Testing Nurses on IV Medication Guidelines Improves Standard Practice Recall, Study Says

Testing nurses on intravenous (IV) medication for comprehension and information retrieval improved their recall of user guidelines and standard practices, according to a study from three United Kingdom hospitals published in the January 2022 *Journal of Patient Safety*.

[Read the full summary and see how ECRI can help.](#)

Study: Transport of Critically Ill Patients Reveals Undocumented Patient Safety Incidents

A Norwegian study involving transports of 455 critically ill patients from one hospital to another resulted in 294 patient safety incidents, but only 3 of those events were documented in patient records, according to an article published in the January 2022 issue of *Journal of Patient Safety*.

[Read the full summary and see how ECRI can help.](#)

Cleaning and Disinfectant Products Used in Healthcare Facilities Impact Surface Microbiome

The types of disinfectants used to clean equipment and surfaces in healthcare facilities have an impact on the surface microbiome, according to a study published in the January 2022 article in the *American Journal of Infection Control*.

[Read the full summary and see how ECRI can help.](#)

Interdisciplinary Bedside Rounds Improves Patient-Centered Care, Satisfaction, Study Shows

Interdisciplinary bedside rounds can improve patient centeredness, quality of care, and team collaboration, according to a study published in the January 2022 issue of the *Journal of Patient Safety*.

[Read the full summary and see how ECRI can help.](#)

Swedish Study Supports Daily Discussions of Patient Safety Risks and Adverse Events

A visual method developed in Sweden for healthcare workers to recognize risks and preventable adverse events on a daily basis has had a positive impact on patient safety culture and event reporting, according to a study published in the January 2022 issue of the *Journal of Patient Safety*.

[Read the full summary and see how ECRI can help.](#)

Face Mask Fit: Study Finds Best and Worst Modifications for Performance

An elastic "brace" over a medical mask blocks more than 95% of cough aerosols and 99% of exhaled aerosols, compared to an unmodified mask that blocks 56% of cough aerosols and 42% of exhaled aerosols, according to a December 15, 2021, study in the *American Journal of Infection Control*.

[Read the full summary and see how ECRI can help.](#)