


RISK WATCH Quarterly

COVID-19 Updates on HIROC.com

For information and resources related to COVID-19, please visit HIROC.com to access our [COVID-19 Updates page](#). For a Q&A of Subscriber questions, log in and select COVID-19: *Your Questions Answered* from the Member Portal Links dropdown.

Selected research, publications, and resources to promote evidence-informed safety and risk management in Canadian healthcare organizations. Prepared by Healthcare Risk Management staff at the Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada (HIROC). Titles with an open lock icon  indicate that a publication is open access. For all others a subscription or library access is required; the librarian at your organization may be able to assist you. Please contact riskmanagement@hiroc.com for assistance if required.



Anthony Soung Yee

Editor's Note

The May 2022 issue of Risk Watch includes articles on the three HIROC patient safety drivers: maternal neonatal care, mental health death by suicide while under care, and patient deterioration.

The area of maternal neonatal care is explored through studies on COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy, midwifery job satisfaction and understanding the second-victim experience. Fell et al. provide insights into outcomes associated with COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy, revealing that COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy was not significantly associated with increased risk of adverse peripartum outcomes. As well, Hansson et al. investigate job satisfaction for midwives in Sweden, and a US study by Rivera-Chiauzzi et al. investigate the second victim experience in obstetrics and gynecology.

Two Canadian articles on mental health death by suicide under care explore issues of self-harm among adolescents and clinical judgments of suicide risk assessment. Ray et al. evaluate the risk of self-harm, overdose, and all-cause mortality among adolescents and young adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sequeira et al. use a vignette method to explore the uniformity of clinical judgment of suicide risk assessment amongst healthcare professionals.

Prevention of patient deterioration is addressed by studies on avoidability of out-of-hours discharge from intensive care, development of an evaluation tool of consumers' knowledge to report patient deterioration, and the examination of ambulatory virtual care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vollam et al. use case record reviews to identify gaps in out-of-hours care provision following overnight discharge from ICU. King et al. report on a validated tool to address the effectiveness of educational materials in public awareness campaigns that focuses on consumer reporting of patient deterioration within hospitals. Mullur et al. investigate patient satisfaction and other measures as they relate to ambulatory virtual care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You will also find a collection of resources, including the second report from the Ockenden review of maternity services at two Trusts in the UK, studies on false positive results in rapid antigen tests and the expansion of ambulatory telemedicine practices, and an article reviewing the strength and specificity of indemnity clauses and insurance provisions.

If you have feedback about this quarterly edition of Risk Watch, please send them to me at asoungyee@hiroc.com

MATERNAL NEONATAL**Association of COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy With Adverse Peripartum Outcomes**

Fell, D.B. et al., JAMA. 2022;327(15):1478-1487. doi:10.1001/jama.2022.4255

Canadian article providing current evidence on outcomes associated with COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy. This population-based retrospective cohort study used the Ontario birth registry and COVID-19 immunization databases. Information collection from over 97,000 individuals revealed that COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy, compared with vaccination after pregnancy and with no vaccination, was not significantly associated with increased risk of adverse peripartum outcomes.

Job satisfaction in midwives and its association with organisational and psychosocial factors at work: a nation-wide, cross-sectional study

Hansson et al., BMC Health Serv Res. 2022 Apr 2;22(1):436. doi: 10.1186/s12913-022-07852-3

Swedish study involving a nation-wide survey to assess the organizational and psychosocial work environments for midwives. Using this validated tool, the researchers were able to understand measures of meaningfulness and job satisfaction, as well as providing insights into organizational factors and the importance of structural changes on care, management, and resource allocation. The study included benchmarking on role conflict, work pace and burnout as factors that have a negative impact on job satisfaction.

Understanding the Second Victim Experience Among Multidisciplinary Providers in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Rivera-Chiauzzi, E. et al. J Patient Saf. 2022 Mar 1;18(2):e463-e469. doi: 10.1097/PTS.0000000000000850

US study seeking to better understand the second victim experience (SVE) of individuals in clinical or non-clinical roles that cared for OBGYN patients in a large tertiary referral center. Using a validated survey tool, the results furthered the understanding of prevalence and knowledge of SVEs, and explored types of support resources used and most desired among OBGYN clinical and non-clinical healthcare team members.

MENTAL HEALTH - DEATH BY SUICIDE UNDER CARE**Comparison of Self-harm or Overdose Among Adolescents and Young Adults Before vs During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Ontario**

Ray JG, Austin PC, Aflaki K, Guttmann A, Park AL. JAMA Netw Open. 2022 Jan 4;5(1):e2143144. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.43144. PMID: 35019981; PMCID: PMC8756304.

Canadian study evaluating the risk of self-harm, overdose, and all-cause mortality among adolescents and young adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. The population-based cohort study took place in Ontario and included all adolescents and young adults born in Ontario aged 14 to 24 years between 2018 and 2021. The findings suggested that, at least up to the middle of 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has not led to an excess of intentional injury among adolescents and young adults. However, the authors noted that some fatal or nonfatal cases of self-harm or overdose may have been missed because of a lack of presentation to an ED, or incomplete capture as a fatality. As well, they noted that it should be determined if this phenomenon continued within subsequent waves of the pandemic, or if unrealized self-harm or overdose events have occurred outside of a hospital setting.

Exploring Uniformity of Clinical Judgment: A Vignette Approach to Understanding Healthcare Professionals' Suicide Risk Assessment Practices

Sequeira L, Strudwick G, De Luca V, Strauss J, Wiljer D. J Patient Saf. 2022 Jan 26. doi: 10.1097/PTS.0000000000000973. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35085164.

Canadian study assessing the uniformity of decision making around suicide risk assessment within healthcare professionals. The study used a factorial survey approach to gather information on healthcare professionals' demographics, clinical experience, and their decision on three vignettes of patients with suicidal ideation. Responses gathered from 79 healthcare professionals (nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians) who worked in primary care, mental health, or emergency department settings showed there was considerable variability among healthcare professionals assessing the risk of suicide. The authors stated that their findings have important implications for tailoring education and decision support.

PATIENT DETERIORATION

Patient Harm and Institutional Avoidability of Out-of-Hours Discharge From Intensive Care

Vollam S, Gustafson O, Morgan L, Pattison N, Thomas H, Watkinson P. Crit Care Med. 2022 Mar 7. doi: 10.1097/CCM.0000000000005514. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35245235.

UK study exploring in-depth case record reviews where in-hospital death occurred after ICU discharge had been judged "probably avoidable" in a previous review. Researchers conducted semi-structured interviews with 55 patients, family members, and staff with experience of ICU discharge processes. The study identified significant limitations in out-of-hours care provision following overnight discharge from ICU. Findings concluded that, where discharge after 16:00 is unavoidable, support systems should be implemented to ensure the safety of patients discharged from ICU at night.

Development and Validation of an Evaluation Tool of Consumers' Knowledge and Confidence to Report Patient Deterioration in Hospitals

King L, Ullah S, Belan I, Clark RA, Young T, Grantham H, Peacock G, Kidd MR. J Patient Saf. 2021 Dec 1;17(8):e1406-e1412. doi: 10.1097/PTS.0000000000000895. PMID: 34508043.

Australian study regarding the development and validation of a tool to measure the impact of messages contained in self-developed educational materials on consumers' knowledge and confidence to report patient deterioration. The proposed tool was created using consumer-based input. Fourteen 5-point Likert scale questionnaire items were categorized into knowledge and confidence components to identify the impact of the materials in both areas. The study concluded that the tool was able to assess the effectiveness of educational materials in public awareness campaigns that focused on consumer reporting of patient deterioration within hospitals.

Ambulatory Virtual Care During a Pandemic: Patient Safety Considerations

Mullur J, Chen YC, Wickner P, Licurse A, Desai S. J Patient Saf. 2022 Mar 1;18(2):e431-e438. doi: 10.1097/PTS.0000000000000832. PMID: 35188931.

US Study using a multidisciplinary working group to evaluate quality and safety when providing virtual visits during a pandemic. The primary outcome was patient experience with virtual care delivery, which was assessed by leveraging patient complaint data and patient satisfaction survey data. Overall, patient satisfaction with telehealth remained stable and high at >93%. The study identified quality and safety issues around patient factors including optimal triage of patients and use of technology. The authors also created a guidance document which was shared with their diverse ambulatory practices.

OTHER RESOURCES OF INTEREST

[Final report of the Ockenden review - Findings, conclusions and essential actions from the independent review of maternity services at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust](#) (*Department of Health and Social Care, March 2022*). This is the second report of the [Ockenden review](#) of maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust in the UK. It identifies new themes that are shared across all maternity services to bring about positive and essential change. Recommendations include local actions for the two Trusts as well as timely actions for consideration across all Trusts in the UK.

[False Positive Results in Rapid Antigen Tests for SARS-CoV-2](#) (*Gans JS, Goldfarb A, Agrawal AK, Sennik S, Stein J, Rosella L. JAMA. 2022 Feb 1;327(5):485-486. doi: 10.1001/jama.2021.24355. PMID: 34994775; PMCID: PMC8742218.*). Study investigating the incidence of false-positive results in a large sample of rapid antigen tests used to serially screen asymptomatic workers throughout Canada.

[The Abrupt Expansion of Ambulatory Telemedicine Implications for Patient Safety](#) (*Khoong EC, Sharma AE, Gupta K, Adler-Milstein J, Sarkar U. J Gen Intern Med. 2022 Jan 19:1-5. doi: 10.1007/s11606-021-07329-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35048294; PMCID: PMC8768444.*). Article on recent expansion of telemedicine practices, describing how changes in communication, care teams, and patient engagement have impacted two high priority areas in ambulatory safety: diagnostic errors and medication safety.

[When It Comes to Insurance Clauses, Don't Automatically Assume Assumption of Risk](#) (*Wier Folds, February 2022*). Article reviewing the strength and specificity of any indemnity clauses and insurance provisions. The wording of those provisions may impact a court's determination as to allocation of risk. The article reviews judgement decisions, and appellate decisions in Canadian commercial courts.