Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation
Emergency Preparedness Update
for August 15, 2019

CDC releases *STRIVE* infection control training courses

(AHA Today) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released the first in a new series of _free_ online training courses to help health care organizations prevent and control infections. Developed by the AHA's Health Research & Educational Trust, the first courses cover competency-based training, hand hygiene and strategies for preventing healthcare-associated infections. Eight more courses — on topics such as environmental cleaning, building a business case for infection prevention, and engaging patients and family members — will be added over the next few months. HRET, part of the AHA Center for Health Innovation, led a team of national infection prevention experts to develop the STRIVE curriculum with funding from the CDC.

To access the courses, accredited for continuing education, visit https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/training/strive.html.

KY OSHA Training Offerings Aug 26-29 in Louisville
Hazard Communication & Evacuation-Trenching: August 26
Bloodborne Pathogens for Healthcare: August 27
Basic Electrical Safety & Injury/Illness Recordkeeping: Aug 28
Fall Protection: Aug 29

More information and registration: https://kysafe.ky.gov/programs/training/Population-Center-Training/Pages/Louisville-Population-Center-Training.aspx (CEU's available!)

CDC Webinar: Disasters—Keeping Volunteers, Workers, and Responders Safe

(CDC EPIC) Are you helping clean up, rebuild, or support other response and recovery efforts after a flood, earthquake, storm, fire, or other disaster? If so, then it's a good idea to be prepared and informed about how you can stay safe and healthy while responding. Join CDC's Emergency Partners Information Connection and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to learn how to reduce risk from injuries, chemical exposures, environmental hazards, and psychological stressors.

CDC will host this webinar on _August 21 at 1 p.m. Eastern Time_. Closed captioning will be available. Presenter is CAPT Lisa Delaney, M.S., CIH, Associate Director for Emergency Preparedness and Response, CDC/NIOSH. Log-on details and more information on this webinar, previous EPIC webinars, and continuing education can be found at: https://emergency.cdc.gov/epic/learn/index.asp?deliveryName=DM6767

KY ACEP Endorses Collective Medical's EDie Software

The Kentucky Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (KACEP), the nation's largest emergency medical organization with more than 37,000 emergency physicians, endorses technology that enables emergency physicians to access, in real time, essential patient medical record information from different organizations across the community, called "Collective Medical". Collective Medical's emergency department information exchange (EDie) software is an ED-specific application that provides emergency physicians with instant access to a patient's history from other EDie-connected clinics, facilities, treatment centers and other emergency departments.
Read more: http://www.new-kyha.com/NewsBlog/tabid/550/EntryId/1611/KY-ACEP-Endorses-Collective-Medicals-EDie-Software.aspx

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Doctors Can Reduce Opioid Prescriptions Without Patients Suffering

(NPR) When they started practicing medicine, most surgeons say, there was little or no information about just how many pain pills patients needed after specific procedures. As a result, patients often were sent home with the equivalent of handfuls of powerful and addictive medications. Then the opioid crisis hit, along with studies showing one possible side effect of surgery is long-term dependence on pain pills. These findings prompted some medical centers and groups of physicians to establish surgery-specific guidelines.

But questions remained: Would anyone pay attention to the guidelines and would smaller amounts be sufficient to control patients' pain? _Yes_, appears to be the answer to both — in some measure — according to a study that encompassed nearly 12,000 patients in 43 hospitals across Michigan. The researchers published details of their work in a letter Wednesday in the *New England Journal of Medicine.*

Learn more: https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/08/14/751292697/opioid-prescribing-guidelines-are-slowing-the-flow-of-pills-but-progress-is-slow

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New York physician admits to manslaughter after patient dies of overdose

(Becker's Hospital Review) A New York City physician faces four to nine years in prison after pleading guilty Aug. 13 to second-degree manslaughter for writing prescriptions for a powerful narcotic that led to a patient's death from overdose, according to a press release from New York Attorney General Letitia James.

As part of his guilty plea, Barry S. Sloan, DO, admitted he issued two prescriptions for fentanyl to a 36-year-old patient in August 2014 without any medical justification. The patient filled the prescriptions four days after they were issued and died the next morning from a fentanyl overdose.

Full story: https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/legal-regulatory-issues/new-york-physician-admits-to-manslaughter-after-patient-dies-of-overdose.html

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Overcrowding in hospital ERs leads to increased violence

Overcrowding of hospital emergency departments has become a major factor in safety problems or potential ones, according to a new Massachusetts government report. The report released Tuesday by the Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety, a state agency aiming to reduce patient harm, estimates between roughly half and four-fifths of what it calls adverse incidents in emergency departments are largely avoidable. That rate more than doubles other areas of a hospital, the report said, and many of those incidents stem from overcrowding. Nationally, more than 90% of emergency departments have reported routine overcrowding, the report said.

Full story: https://www.wbjournal.com/article/state-overcrowding-in-hospital-ers-leads-to-increased-violence

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The Ryan White CARE Act Turns 29

August 18 will mark the 29th anniversary of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. First authorized in 1990, the Ryan White CARE Act is the legislation that created the HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau (HRSA HAB) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medications, and essential support services for low-income people with HIV, and is a critical component of the "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America" initiative, which was announced earlier this year during the State of the Union address. For more information, visit www.hrsa.gov/ending-hiv-epidemic.

New Treatment for Deadliest Strain of Tuberculosis Is Massively Successful

(Newser) – Good news for those with the deadliest strain of tuberculosis: It no longer has to mean a death sentence. Scientists have discovered a cure for extensively drug-resistant TB, or XDR-TB, and on Wednesday, the FDA "effectively endorsed" it, the *New York Times* reports. The new regimen is easier, shorter, has less severe side effects, and the preliminary trial results show a 90% success rate against XDR. The three-drug regimen, known as Nix-TB, includes two previously approved drugs (bedaquiline and linezolid) plus pretomanid, which the FDA on Wednesday approved for XDR-TB patients as long as it is used in conjunction with the other two.

Full story: https://www.newser.com/story/279149/this-strain-of-tuberculosis-used-to-be-a-death-sentence-not-anymore.html

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Why ambulance bills are so high, and so unexpected

(WNYC/*The Takeaway*) There's been a lot of talk in Washington and among Democratic presidential candidates in the 2020 race about the high cost of medical care, from insurance to medication. But one of the biggest sources of surprisingly high bills is from ambulances, and so far they've been left out of the conversation. They look at why it costs so much to take an ambulance, how dispatching systems work, and why insurance often doesn't cover ambulance trips.

What is also interesting is the growing use of services like "Uber" and "Lyft" as an alternative to get to a hospital at much lower costs! The story says in one study that has grown to about 7% of cases studied already.

This is linked to a 16 minute podcast, and it is "must hear" discussion if you are into healthcare finance, or concerned about the medical "balance billing" issue.

Click and listen: https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/ambulance-bills-high-and-unexpected

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Related stories

- **JAMA article: Assessment of Out-of-Network Billing for Privately Insured Patients Receiving Care in In-Network Hospitals**
- **ABC: Surprise medical bills are on the rise, study finds**
- **Science Daily: Medically unnecessary ambulance rides soar after ACA expansion**

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines from Aug 15, 2019
CDC inspection at Fort Detrick's USAMRIID underscores need for regulations at other labs *(The Fredrick News-Post)* It is not unusual for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to inspect a laboratory at Fort Detrick. Expected or unannounced inspections by the CDC are just part of the regulations the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases adheres to so that it can study dangerous viruses, toxins and bacteria. The fact that the CDC found problems in its latest inspections of the facility illustrates why such regulations are needed, many have said.

GETS/WPS Dialer App Now Available
For Apple, Android and BlackBerry
(GETS/WPS NewsNotes) Users have reported the GETS/WPS Dialer was very helpful during the 2018 hurricane season. The dialer app provided a simplified and quick way to make GETS and WPS calls while reducing user dialing errors.

The dialer app, titled "PTS Dialer", is available for free down-load from the Apple App Store, Google Play Store, and for BlackBerry. Go to: https://gets-wps.csgov.com/apps/

[Note: The GETS/WPS site said in an August 13th post that "All WPS carriers now waive fees for most subscribers." It goes on to say that "Verizon Wireless waives fees for public sector (Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial government) and for first responders with person-al BYOD enrolled in the Verizon First Responders Benefits Program. Verizon Wireless bills fees for private sector (industry and consumer)."]

Learn more about Wireless Priority Service (WPS) and Government Emergency Telephone Service (GETS) for *wired* phones, and the associated costs of each. Hospitals, EMS, and many ESF-8 partners are likely to be eligible for GETS and WPS.

WPS and FirstNet
FirstNet and WPS are separate services that support the public safety community. *WPS is supported on the FirstNet network*. FirstNet provides priority and preemption on the AT&T 4G LTE network for FirstNet users. When both First-Net service and WPS are provisioned on the same phone, FirstNet subscribers can invoke WPS to receive the benefit of priority on voice calls that extend beyond the AT&T FirstNet network when calling users on participating WPS carriers.

AT&T provides WPS at no additional charge to subscribers who are either on an AT&T commercial plan or FirstNet rate plan. For FirstNet pricing and to sign up for the service, visit http://www.firstnet.com. Contact your local AT&T FirstNet specialist for more information. Existing FirstNet users must request WPS using the standard WPS subscription process. Go to www.dhs.gov/wps and click on link for Requesting GETS and WPS (https://www.dhs.gov/cisa/requesting-gets-and-wps). Please note that current AT&T WPS users that are migrating to FirstNet service can continue to maintain their WPS service, because the WPS feature will be automatically transferred.

30th Anniversary Kentucky Statewide Trauma & Emergency Medicine Symposium

Wednesday, October 23 - Friday, October 25, 2019

Lexington Convention Center, Lexington, KY

Pre-Conference
Rural Trauma Team Development Course
(RTTDC) - *8 AMA CME!*
KyTAC Registrars, Trauma Managers and KyTAC Meetings
October 23rd.
*More information, **GET THE AGENDA** and REGISTER* at
http://www.cecentral.com/live/17154
Address questions to: Amanda Rist at (859) 323-1116
or amanda.rist@uky.edu

Sept. 4 Webinar on Integrating Cyber and Physical Security Functions and Technology
AHA's Health Forum Sept. 4 at 2 p.m. ET will host a webinar on integrating cyber and physical security functions and technology. Leaders from NewYork–Presbyterian Hospital and John Riggi, AHA's senior adviser for cybersecurity and risk advisory, will explore the need for health care organizations to strategically align cyber and physical security functions. **View more information and register.**

Running Windows 7, 8 or 10? You need to patch these critical vulnerabilities now

(Tech Radar) Microsoft has issued patches for a pair of critical vulnerabilities which are 'wormable' and present in all recent versions of Windows, with the software giant advising that you should download these as soon as possible due to the risk involved here. The vulnerabilities in Remote Desktop Services, which allow for remote code execution – meaning the attacker can pretty much pull off anything, such as installing malware or plundering your data – are codenamed CVE-2019-1181 and CVE-2019-1182.

Read more: https://www.techradar.com/news/running-windows-7-8-or-10-you-need-to-patch-these-critical-vulnerabilities-now

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The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), in partnership with the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), are pleased to announce the release of this year's **National Cybersecurity Awareness Month Toolkit.** Each October National Cybersecurity Awareness Month aims to increase awareness of the importance of cybersecurity and to encourage all Americans to be responsible technology users.

This October we will emphasize the role each individual plays and the importance of taking proactive steps to enhance cybersecurity at home and in the workplace. The theme "Own IT. Secure IT. Protect IT." encourages positive behavior change online by taking proactive steps to protect their online profile, manage their consumer devices, and understand the best practices in e-commerce. Multi-Factor Authentication, updating privacy settings, creating strong passwords, and maintaining good cyber hygiene are just a few of the recommendations you'll see as part of toolkit!

As National Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2019 approaches, CISA will continue to release information about events and resources available to consumers throughout October. For more information about NCSAM 2019, please reach out to stopthinkconnect@hq.dhs.gov or visit https://niccs.us-cert.gov/national-cybersecurity-awareness-month-2019

St. Vincent / StatFlight
"Vital Signs" Trauma Conference
>>>>> August 22 & 23, 2019 - Double Tree Hotel, Evansville, IN

The St. Vincent / StatFlight "Vital Signs" Trauma Conference is just around the corner! They have packed this year's conference with dynamic & engaging speakers - each experts in their area of patient care. This conference is designed for one thing: Improve the care you provide to your trauma patients.

2 Days - 16 Presentations - CEUs for RN, EMS, RT & Physicians
Click here to see the program's Agenda and REGISTER