

HCI's Monthly Review of Cardiology, Nuclear Medicine

Dear Colleague—

THE HCI SPOTLIGHT physicians. With value based reimbursement telehealth will simply make

or comments. Best regards,

CARDIOLOGY

disability or early death).

sense for healthcare providers and therefore become main stream and a regular part of our healthcare delivery system...are you ready? We hope you enjoy the letter, please feel free to contact us with any questions

& the Breast Imaging Industry

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we attended the American Telehealth Association meeting in Orlando this month. The first thing that became clear to me was the telehealth means different things to different people...and they pretty much are all correct. HCI is interested in the ability for cardiologists to provide consults for rural patients, others are interested in providing the ability for patients to see their physician via a tablet or phone (vs. having to go to the Urgent Care/ER), and still others need ER physicians to assist with patients on ships in the middle of the Atlantic. And, there are still many other applications and they are all appropriate. Experts at the meeting quoted that in five years 10–15% of primary care, 20–30% of behavioral health, and 50% of health systems will use telemedicine. At present, one of the barriers is reimbursement. Some states have embraced this technology

Volume IX, Issue 4, April 2017 while others have been hesitant due to its potential disruptive affect on local

Kidney Disease a Big Contributor to Heart-Related

Deaths: Study

The investigators also found that reduced kidney function ranked below high blood pressure, high blood sugar, and overweight/obesity, but was similar to high cholesterol, as a risk factor for disability-adjusted life years (the number of years lost due to ill health,

https://consumer.healthday.com/diseases-and-conditions-information-37/misc-kidney-problem-news-432/kidney-disease-a-big-contributor-to-heart-related-deaths-study-721456.html

No Fetal Heart Risk from Mom's Beta-Blocker Use

"This study doesn't completely answer the question, but it does suggest that prior studies showing an association were potentially confounded," he said. "These findings are definitely reassuring, but there is still more that we need to learn about

https://www.medpagetoday.com/OBGYN/Pregnancy/64626?xid=nl_mpt_DHE_2017-04-19&eun=g1126350d0r&pos=0

Current use of the urate-lowering therapy allopurinol by patients with gout and diabetes resulted in a reduced risk for the first incidence of hospitalized myocardial infarction (MI) or stroke, according to an analysis of claims data by researchers from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Results were published recently in

http://www.rheumatologyadvisor.com/gout/allopurinol-use-lowers-cardiovascular-event-risk/article/650141/

Exercisers May Have Better Shot of Surviving Heart Attack

One Possible explanation is that people who exercise may develop collateral blood vessels in the heart which ensures the heart continues to get enough blood after a blockage. Exercise may also increase levels of chemical substances that improve blood

https://consumer.healthday.com/fitness-information-14/misc-health-news-265/exercisers-may-have-better-shot-of-

Positive Cardiac Troponin in Stroke Signals Mortality Risk

Body-Weight Swings in CHD Patients Are

Independent Predictors of CV Risk

Gain-and-loss weight cycling among patients with established coronary heart disease (CHD) was strongly and independently associated with risk of cardiovascular events and death, in new research published in the April 6, 2017 issue of the New England

Many Americans Don't know How to Handle High

Eighty-two percent of the respondents knew there was a link between cholesterol and risk for heart disease and stroke, and most of those with high cholesterol knew it was

https://consumer.healthday.com/vitamins-and-nutrition-information-27/high-cholesterol-health-news-359/many-americans-

Have Atrial Fibrillation

body surface area (BSA) and the risk of A-fib in more than 1.5 million women.

Larger Women Almost Three Times More Likely to

A new, large-scale Swedish study-presented at EuroPrevent 2017, the annual congress of the European Association of Preventative Cardiology- investigates the link between

Do Cardiac Calcium CT Scans Work?

Carefully used, with the intent of changing management, a calcium scan, specifically when there is zero calcium, is a useful test. It's like a GPS which tells you to avoid the

https://www.medpagetoday.com/Blogs/KevinMD/64864?xid=nl mpt DHE 2017-04-28&eun=g1126350d0r&pos=11

One Hospital's Experiments in Virtual Health Care

Few recent trends in health care delivery have more power to improve population health, patient and provider experience, and hospital business models than virtual care. But for an industry reliant on, and in many ways limited by, brick-and-mortar facilities, this movement will mean significant disruption for providers. As more commercial and state payers offer telehealth coverage and patients come to expect virtual care as standard practice, meeting the demand is quickly becoming clinically

Metronomic Chemotherapy No General Help in **Pediatric Solid Cancers**

In pediatric patients with extracranial progressive solid malignant tumors, metronomic chemotherapy does not generally improve progression-free survival, but

Early Promise with CMV-Targeted Vaccine for Glioma

Treatment with an investigational vaccine targeting cytomegalovirus (CMV), given with dose-intensified temozolomide, more than doubled overall survival in patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma relative to historical controls, a small phase I

SNMMI Begins Release of Appropriate Use Criteria

for High-Value Nuclear Medicine Procedures

This is the first in a series of new AUC developed by SNMMI in its role as a qualified provider-led entity (PLE) under the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program for advanced diagnostic imaging. These AUC are intended to assist referring physicians and ordering professionals to fulfill the requirements of the 2014 Protecting Access to

Statin use reduces risk for lower-limb amputation in

type 2 diabetes, PAD

In adults with type 2 diabetes and peripheral artery disease, statin use was associated with a 25% lower rate of lower-extremity amputations and a 22% risk reduction in cardiovascular mortality when compared with no statin use, according to findings from a

http://www.healio.com/endocrinology/diabetes/news/in-the-journals/%7B07385042-8ff6-4c3f-ac3a-14d766e45f3a%

Androgen Deprivation therapy may be linked with dementia in prostate cancer

Androgen deprivation therapy may be associated with an increased risk for dementia in patients with prostate cancer, according to a systematic review and meta-analysis. However, although the literature supported an association between androgen deprivation therapy and dementia, researchers found no direct evidence that the therapy caused

Scientists warn about impact of metabolic syndrome in type 2 diabetes risk

Now researchers from Florida Atlantic University are voicing major concerns about the dramatic impact metabolic syndrome is having on public health and are calling

 $\frac{http://www.diabetes.co.uk/news/2017/apr/scientists-warn-about-impact-of-metabolic-syndrome-in-type-2-diabetes-risk-97292116.html$

FDA: No Codeine or Tramadol for Children under 12— Period

Products containing codeine or tramadol will now carry a "Contraindication" for children under the age of 12, which is the FDA's strongest warning. The agency cited concerns about slowed or difficult breathing or death, especially among younger children and infants in its decision to restrict the use of products containing these two drugs.

Kidney SPECT/CT add-on proves precise in ruling out

malignancy

"Sestamibi SPECT/CT lets radiologists and urologists 'see' the most common benign kidney tumor, something CT and MRI have not succeeded in doing alone," says Hopkins Medicine's vice chair of urology, Mohamad Allaf, MD. "Use of this test has already spared a number of our patients from unnecessary surgery and unnecessary removal of a kidney

http://www.healthimaging.com/topics/oncology-imaging/kidney-spectct-proves-precise-ruling-out-malignancy

PET links midlife vascular risk factors to more amyloid

Florbetapir-PET scans show that midlife adults with two or more vascular risk factors are significantly more likely to have greater levels of amyloid deposits in their brains later in life than peers with no such risk factors, according to a study published April 11

Is Stroke Trending younger?

They found that acute ischemic stroke hospitalization rates increased significantly for both men and women ages 18 to 54. Specifically, rates have almost doubled for men

Parental Smoking Linked to Genetic Changes in Kids

with Cancer

Some previous research has linked parental smoking to an increased risk of childhood leukemia, but with less consistent results for mothers than for fathers. The current study is the first to link smoking by both parents to specific genetic changes in tumor cells of children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), said lead study author Adan de Smith, a researcher at the University of California San Francisco's Helen Diller Fami-

Telerheumatology: A technology appropriate for

virtually all.

Telerheumatology services were developed at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) to bring specialty care to New Hampshire (NH) and Vermont (VT) where a large proportion of the population lives in rural areas (60%) with limited resources and access to care. We sought to learn what challenges and accomplishments our early

CMS Suggests Hospital Medicare Reimbursement

Policy Changes

A proposed rule would update hospital Medicare reimbursement systems and call on stakeholders to provide feedback on how to reduce administrative burdens on

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Top Strategies for Collecting Patient Financial

Responsibility

Patient financial responsibility - or the amount of out-of-pocket healthcare costs patients incur - has been increasing in recent years, presenting a new foil to the patient experience. Providers must both adjust to consumer-centered healthcare as well as

 $\frac{http://patientengagementhit.com/features/top-strategies-for-collecting-patient-financial-responsibility?}{elqTrackId=7e053c23aacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elq=1810b8597cac4c0b965fb73477086b61&elqaid=2376&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elq=1810b8597cac4c0b965fb73477086b61&elqaid=2376&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elq=1810b8597cac4c0b965fb73477086b61&elqaid=2376&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elq=1810b8597cac4c0b965fb73477086b61&elqaid=2376&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elq=1810b8597cac4c0b965fb73477086b61&elqaid=2376&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elq=1810b8597cac4c0b965fb73477086b61&elqaid=2376&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elq=1810b8597cac4c0b965fb73477086b61&elqaid=2376&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8150&elqat=1&elqCaacf4d409ad041006aea8160&elqat=1$

VETS Act Introduced to Expand Veterans' Access to TeleHealth Services

By expanding telehealth services, the legislation aims to improve health care access, including mental health treatment, for disabled and rural veterans, according to a

https://www.healthcare-informatics.com/news-item/telemedicine/vets-act-introduced-expand-veterans-access-

White House Finalizes ACA rule to strengthen individual market

http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20170413/NEWS/170419936/breaking-white-house-finalizes-aca-rule-to-

In Medicare, states are far from equal

CMS releases mixed payment rules for inpatient, longterm care

Inpatient operating prospective payments are projected to increase 2.9 percent in fiscal year 2018 due to the changes in the proposed rule. But payments to long-term care hos-

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20 Hour Radiation Training and

http://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/cms-releases-mixed-payment-rules-inpatient-long-term-care

EDUCATION/CONFERENCES

Medicare spending, utilization and quality vary widely across states, a phenomenon that is longstanding but remains poorly understood. These fluctuations by geography do not seem to reflect beneficiaries' health, the CMS noted in its methodology document for the data, which are released annually is what is formally known as the Geo-

http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20170415/MAGAZINE/170419967

pitals are projected to decrease by about 3.75 percent.

100% money-back satisfaction guarantee

The rule limits when consumers can gain coverage outside of open enrollment periods, shifts authority to states to determine whether health plans have adequate provider networks, lets insurers potentially pay lower percentage of consumers' medical costs, and allows insurers to refuse to cover persons who haven't paid their

POLITICS THAT AFFECT

develop patient engagement strategies to collect payments.

MEDICINE

press release from Sen. Ernst.

telehealth-services

premiums.

strengthen-individual

graphic Public Use File.

http://revcycleintelligence.com/news/cms-suggests-hospital-medicare-reimbursement-policy-changes

https://www.medpagetoday.com/Pediatrics/GeneralPediatrics/64673?xid=nl mpt DHE 2017-04-21&eun=g1126350d0r&pos=0

that would require them to be on dialysis."

in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=mol&pag=dis&ItemID=117077

ly Comprehensive Cancer Center.

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-smoking-leukemia-idUSKBN1782K0

telemedicine program has encountered since inception.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/m/pubmed/27395561/

BUSINESS

clinicians.

mpaignId=2183

ages 18 to 34 and 35 to 44 years since 1995-1996, they noted.

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e184b9d444%7D/androgen-deprivation-therapy-may-be-linked-with-dementia-in-prostate-cancer

Cholesterol

important to manage their cholesterol. Unfortunately, many were confused, discouraged and uncertain about their ability to do so, the survey found.

Elevated cardiac troponin levels in patients with acute ischemic stroke were independently associated with an increased risk for long-term mortality in a new

flow and reduce injury to the heart from heart attack.

Allopurinol Use in Concomitant Gout and Diabetes Lowers Cardiovascular Event Risk

the impact of β -blockers on the developing fetus, including other potential

malformations such as intrauterine growth restriction."

BMC Cardiovascular Disorders.1

surviving-heart-attack-721505.html

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/878551

Journal of Medicine[1].

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/878295

don-t-know-how-to-handle-high-cholesterol-721484.html

http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/316821.php

New Jersey Turnpike.

HEALTH

and financially imperative.

https://hbr.org/2016/12/one-hospitals-experiments-in-virtual-health-care

might benefit some, according to Indian researchers.

https://www.medpagetoday.com/hematologyoncology/braincancer/64583

http://www.snmmi.org/NewsPublications/NewsDetail.aspx?ItemNumber=23301

7D/statin-use-reduces-risk-for-lower-limb-amputation-in-type-2-diabetes-pad

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/878467

study showed.

Medicare Act (PAMA).

population-based study.

dementia.

for people to become more active.

study.

Robert J. Stilley President, CEO HeartCare Imaging, Inc.