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From: ACC Quality First SmartBrief [accquality@smartbrief.com]
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To: Adam Sikich
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First Focus

Baylor hospital QI gets boost from joint ownership

Baylor Heart and Vascular Hospital is an example of how team building and leadership are important parts of successful quality improvement initiatives. Partly owned by doctors and Baylor University Medical Center, the hospital created an equal partnership between providers and administrators to improve coordination and patient care. [HealthLeaders Media](#) (2/17) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

Hospitals improve discharge plans to lower readmissions

Hospitals are improving discharge programs to reduce patient readmissions, which could result in reduced Medicare payments beginning next year. Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta participates in Project Boost, a program that targets patients at high risk of readmission and addresses logistical and psychosocial problems before patients leave the hospital. [The Washington Post/Kaiser Health News](#) (2/22) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

For more: Learn more about strategies to reduce cardiac-related hospital readmissions with the [ACC's Hospital to Home initiative](#). [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

Health system adopts multipart quality improvement plan

Canada's Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare has adopted a quality improvement plan that focuses on hospital hygiene, reducing the number of hospital-acquired C. difficile infections and pressure ulcers, reducing unnecessary readmissions and wait times, and increasing patient satisfaction. The plan complies with the Ontario province's Excellent Care for All Act, which requires hospitals to establish quality committees and develop annual quality improvement plans. [CottageCountryNow.ca \(Ontario\)](#) (2/16) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

Practice Management

Doctors order tests for defensive reasons, study finds

A survey of 72 orthopedic surgeons found 20% of total X-ray, CT scans and MRIs were ordered for defensive reasons. The study, led by Dr. John Flynn of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, found that newer doctors were less likely to order tests defensively, while doctors who had been sued in the last five years were more likely to order tests defensively. [Insurance Journal/The Associated Press](#) (2/18) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

Hospitals refine image, add services to compete for patients

Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital's clinical decision unit is among the new services offered by Sonoma County, Calif., facilities to attract patients in an increasingly competitive market. Hospitals are redefining themselves as places where patients can go to get better and stay healthy by expanding emergency departments, creating medical fitness centers and collaborating with community clinics. [The Press Democrat \(Santa Rosa, Calif.\)](#) (2/20) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

Other News

[Ongoing drug shortages spur hoarding, higher prices](#)

E-Health Watch

GAO urges CMS to match EHR and e-Rx reporting measures

The Government Accountability Office found that the CMS' incentive programs for EHRs and e-prescribing were inconsistent in some areas, which could create confusion among providers and lessen their effectiveness in spurring widespread HIT adoption. GAO proposed that the CMS align both programs' reporting criteria so as to lighten the load for eligible providers. [Government Health IT](#) (2/18) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

IOM wants to use IT to measure, improve public health

An Institute of Medicine committee is exploring how to use electronic medical records, health insurance data and other information systems to measure public health and possibly drive health care accountability. Health experts say changing key factors such as obesity, smoking, exercise and eating habits are needed to improve Americans' health. [Government Health IT](#) (02/21) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

Products & Innovation

Hospitals can go green to save money without reducing safety

Johns Hopkins University researchers reported environmentally friendly practices can help hospitals reduce costs without affecting patient safety. The study, in the journal Archives of Surgery, said the top strategies to do this are reducing operating room and pharmacy waste, reprocessing single-use devices, making environmentally friendly purchases and improving energy consumption. [HealthDay News](#) (2/21) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

Robotic nurses and hand gesture technology hold promise

Purdue University researchers say robotic scrub nurses could one day help surgeons in the operating room. Robots, along with vision-based hand gesture recognition technology, could reduce the length of surgeries and the potential for infection, as well as help coordinate emergency response activities during disasters. [HealthLeaders Media](#) (2/22) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#)

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Other News

Anti-microbial laser wristband fights hospital-related infections

American City Business Journals/Dayton, Ohio (2/21) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

Policy & Reform Spotlight

Survey: 90% of U.S. health leaders trust health reform

Nine of 10 U.S. health leaders believe the health care reform law leads the U.S. in the right direction, while 68% of them would like to implement the Affordable Care Act essentially as is, a Commonwealth Fund/Modern Healthcare Health Care Opinion Leaders Survey found. A majority of them also favored changes such as broadening Medicaid coverage and creating new payment and delivery systems, according to the survey, which was praised by the pro-health reform CF.

[United Press International](#) (2/21) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

House votes to defund health reform

The House of Representatives on Saturday voted 235-189 in favor of a spending bill containing amendments that would deplete funding of the health care reform law, including a more than \$60 billion reduction in federal funds compared with fiscal 2010. President Barack Obama earlier said he would veto the bill if it undermines major priorities. [Modern Healthcare](#) (free registration) (2/19) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

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ACC News

Capitol Hill briefing focuses on eliminating inequities in CV care

Eliminating inequalities in cardiovascular care was the focus of a recent American College of Cardiology co-sponsored Capitol Hill briefing. The event aimed to raise awareness about important public policy strategies and investments to address health care inequities. Herman A. Taylor, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.C., director and principal investigator of the Jackson Heart Study in Mississippi, provided the keynote address. Other topics discussed included inequities in health care access and health care delivery, barriers to care -- especially for minorities -- and how health care quality initiatives can reduce health inequities. ACC CEO Jack Lewin, M.D., spoke at the briefing and specifically addressed reducing inequities through quality measurement. He highlighted examples of measure-based quality efforts within the ACC such as credo, the Coalition to Reduce Disparities in CV Outcomes, the NCDR registries and the ACC's CardioSmart patient health initiative.

[Read more about the briefing.](#) [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

Last chance to save on registration for ACC.11 and i2 Summit

Registration for ACC.11 and i2 Summit in New Orleans is currently open. [Register by Feb. 23 to save with discounts on registration.](#) Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate 60 years of cutting-edge, innovative education designed to help improve the quality of care for patients with (or at risk of) heart disease. Plan to arrive in New Orleans on Friday, April 1, so you don't miss out on ACC.11 and i2 Summit Programs scheduled for Saturday, April 2. [Share:](#) [in](#) [f](#) [t](#) [E-MAIL](#)

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SmartQuote



Undertake not what you cannot perform, but be careful to keep your promise."

--George Washington,
1st U.S. president,
quoted for his birthday, Feb. 22, 1732

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