

Roadmap for virtual care

Three steps toward the future for medical device companies, per the Network for Excellence in Health Innovation: 1) Encourage Medicare, Medicaid and private payers to promote technology-enabled innovation; 2) support a national licensure system for health professionals; 3) train healthcare workers to operate virtually and in multidisciplinary teams. “Not all healthcare will or should move outside of the traditional institutional settings, such as doctors’ offices and hospitals,” said Susan Dentzer, president and CEO of NEHI. “But much of healthcare is about exchanges of information, rather than the traditional laying on of hands. And those exchanges of information about healthcare can increasingly take place virtually.” Click [here](#) for an executive summary of the NEHI report, Health Care Without Walls: A Roadmap for Reinventing U.S. Health.

Ransom attacks spiked in third quarter

Healthcare remains the most targeted industry by ransomware attacks, which have spiked in the third quarter of 2018, according to latest data from specialist insurer Beazley, reports [Healthcare IT Security](#). Ransom demands in the most sophisticated type of breaches also increased in the third quarter. Ransom demands jumped to as much as \$2.8 million in cases where criminals either targeted an organization or upon obtaining access discovered that they had more leverage and therefore increased the ransom demand. Hackers have also been adding pressure on victims to pay the ransom by conducting reconnaissance on their network and compromising back-ups before deploying the encrypting malware.

Reimbursement to go down for hospital outpatient clinic visits

The American Hospital Association is not happy with CMS’ decision to implement over two years a reduction in payments for hospital outpatient clinic visits. “These ill-advised rules will hit patients in rural and vulnerable communities especially hard,” AHA Executive Vice President Tom Nickels was quoted as saying. “Today's final rule could stifle hospitals' ability to modernize care to meet the needs of their patients and communities.”

Healthcare-acquired infections moving in the right direction

You're less likely to pick up a nasty infection during a hospital stay in the United States than you were a few years ago, a new report finds. Between 2011 and 2015, a patient's risk of catching a hospital-acquired infection dropped 16 percent, [reports UPI](#). Four percent of hospital patients had a health care-associated infection in 2011. By 2015, that

number had dropped to 3.2 percent. The biggest declines were seen in surgical site infections and urinary tract infections, according to the study. Fewer people had urinary catheters in 2015, and providers have focused on removing those catheters as soon as possible to reduce infection risk. In 2011, 183 hospitals participated in the study; in 2015, 199 hospitals were included.