



The Cutting Edge

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The Cutting Edge Newsletter
News for the OR Professional

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The Cutting Edge Has Been Re-Launched

After a year's hiatus, The Cutting Edge is back! This e-newsletter is focused on news that directly impacts OR professionals. The content is compiled and circulated by Surgical Information Systems (SIS) as a complimentary service to the online surgical community. We send The Cutting Edge directly to your inbox, and you can also access it online at any time.

E-mails Improve Patient-Surgeon Communication

Providing patients who are undergoing elective surgery with email access to their surgeon results in improved levels of communication without any demonstrated impairment of satisfaction with outcomes, according to the results of a prospective, randomized study reported in the February issue of the Archives of Surgery. (HealthDay News – February 18, 2008)

More at <http://health.usnews.com/usnews/health/healthday/080218/e-mails-improve-patient-surgeon-communication.htm>

A Wii Warm-Up Hones Surgical Skills

You might think it a bad idea for trainee surgeons to play games on the Nintendo Wii when they should be studying, but it might be time well spent. Kanav Kahol and Marshall Smith of the Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona, have found that surgical residents performed better during simulated surgery after playing on the Wii console. Now they are designing Wii software that will accurately simulate surgical procedures. A training platform based on the console, which costs about \$250, might be more practical for trainee surgeons in the developing world than traditional virtual training tools, which typically cost a great deal more. (NewScientist – January 22, 2008)

More at <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/GadgetGuide/story?id=4170786>

Healthcare Industry Develops Scoring System to Judge Patients' Ability to Pay

Mortgage lenders aren't the only ones showing more interest in your credit score these days - the health industry is creating its own score to judge your ability to pay. The new medFICO score, being designed with the help of credit industry giant Fair Isaac Corp., could make its debut as early as this summer in some hospitals. The score is already raising questions from consumer advocacy groups that fear it will be checked before patients are treated. People with low medical credit scores could receive lower-quality care than those with a healthy medFICO, they argue. (The Baltimore Sun – January 2, 2008)



More at <http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bal-bz.medfico02jan02.0.2559361.story>

Nurse Credited for New System that Prevents Bloodstream Infections

A Sacramento-area hospital is emerging as a nationwide leader in the push to eliminate deadly infections picked up by unsuspecting hospital patients. Sutter Roseville Medical Center has overhauled the way it uses catheters inserted into patients' veins. The thin tubes are a common entryway for potentially toxic bacteria. The hospital has not had a single bloodstream infection among more than 3,000 of these patients for the past two years, as a result of the changes, said Sophie Harnage, the nurse who manages the hospital's infusion unit and developed the new system. (The Sacramento Bee – February 3, 2008)

More at <http://www.sacbee.com/health/story/683405.html>

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