



Improve healthcare delivery outcomes by promoting the development,  
application and support of safe and effective healthcare technologies.

## **Healthcare Technology Foundation News**

### **January/February 2014**

#### **Managing Risk of Integrated Systems and Networks Training Announcement**

AAMI and HTF are proud to announce the joint training program developed to help Clinical Engineers and IT professional obtain the tools necessary for risk management methodologies and mitigation. Registration is open on the AAMI website. There are two locations: 1) March 27<sup>th</sup> at Scripps Health System in California, and 2) June 2<sup>nd</sup> in conjunction with the 2014 AAMI Expo in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This will be a practical one-day workshop that will provide an environment to learn real-life solutions. Please see this link to learn more and to register.

[AAMI/HTF Training Program Announcement – Managing Risks of Integrated Systems and Networks in Healthcare Environments](#)

#### **Welcome new Advisory Board Member!**

HTF has developed an excellent relationship with the American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC). Their announcement of the 2011 alarms survey resulted in over 2000 RTs participating. They also recently released a paper on the RT specific results in AARC News, see link below. Based on conversations with AARC representatives, we are pleased to announce and extend a warm welcome to Ronda Z. Bradley MS, RRT. Her background in home health will be a welcome addition to our patient safety efforts. We look forward to her contributions as an advisory board member.

#### **Respiratory Response to the Alarm Survey**

The article evaluating the 2,071 responses from respiratory therapists to HTF's 2011 National Survey on Clinical Alarms, as been published in the November edition of [American Association of Respiratory Care AARC Times Journal](#).

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## Excellent article for alarms

HTF Past President, William Hyman, developed a fantastic, practical article titled *A Work Plan for the Joint Commission Alarm National Patient Safety Goal*. Please read here: [Work Plan for TJC Alarm National Patient Safety Goal](#).

## VHA Patient Safety Tool

Tom Bauld, HTF Board member, shared a recent VHA Patient Safety Assessment Tool. It was developed to assist managers and staff in conducting an objective assessment of a patient safety program. Further information can be found at this link. [Read more](#)

## AACN ActionPak: Strategies for Managing Alarm Fatigue

Board member, Marge Funk and AACN member, passed along information and a link to tools the AACN has developed regarding alarm fatigue. Tools include: *Managing Alarm Fatigue: New Approaches and Best Practices*, *Managing Alarm Fatigue Teaching Presentation*, *Email Message Sample*, *Huddle Script Sample*, and many others. See link: [American Association of Critical Care Nurses NTI ActionPak: Strategies for Managing Alarm Fatigue](#)

## Summary of AAMI/FDA Summit on Healthcare Technology in Nonclinical Settings

The summit was held October 9-10, the Hyatt Dulles in Herndon, VA.

The theme was: **Healthcare technology no longer is limited to just hospitals**. Increasingly, technology is moving into homes and other nonclinical locations—making it possible to reduce hospital costs and increase patient comfort and convenience. However, there are risks and challenges to consider as this technology is placed in nonclinical environments in the hands of individuals who are *not* medical professionals.

HTF members attending were Tobey Clark and Paul Coss. Tobey presented *Communicating Safe Practices to Care Givers* on a panel that addressed *Instructions for Use: Ensuring That Patients and Caregivers Understand and Perform*.

In general it was clear that there is a real need for better technical support, devices that were easier to use, better support for communities to exchange best practices and other user community information, and better integration into the overall care delivery systems. It was evident that there was a large disparity between the best models and the weakest; that pediatric care received better support but there are too many delivery systems, and the closest the patient and their family got to training was from the driver who dropped the equipment off.

While clearly an essential component of the care delivery model, there is a lot of work to be done here to bring home use of technology up to what we would consider par.

Despite the FDA not being able to attend due to the government shutdown, it was well attended and a lot of good discussion ensued. Here is a link to the final report.

<http://www.aami.org/summit2013/index.html>

Be sure to visit the HTF website to see all the latest news from the foundation, our programs, and resources. While you are there, feel free to hit the DONATE NOW button. We will accept them anytime and they are always tax deductible!

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