



April 19, 2024
Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

Abbott/Thoratec Corp. Recalls HeartMate II and HeartMate 3 Left Ventricular Assist System (LVAS) due to Long-term Buildup Causing an Obstruction

“The FDA has identified this as a Class I recall, the most serious type of recall. Use of these devices may cause serious injuries or death.”

America’s Growing Birthweight Crisis

“Americans are increasingly at risk of having lower incomes, poorer health, and a worse shot at opportunity even before they are born. More babies are now born with low birthweights than in the last 30 years. This has caused growing inequalities that can persist if not properly addressed. In certain parts of the country, that risk may be ten-times greater.”

CMS Proposes New Policies to Support Underserved Communities, Ease Drug Shortages, and Promote Patient Safety

“The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule updating Medicare payments and policies for inpatient hospitals and long-term care hospitals. The

proposed rule takes a variety of approaches to improving the health of people with Medicare by addressing social determinants of health, strengthening emergency preparedness, and improving maternal health. The fiscal year (FY) 2025 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System (LTCH PPS) rule builds on the Biden-Harris Administration's work to support historically underserved and under-resourced communities and promote value-based care."

Sulfites: Allergen of the Year 2024

"Sodium disulfite, also known as sodium metabisulfite or sodium pyrosulfite, is an inorganic compound, which may cause allergic contact dermatitis. Sulfites act as antioxidants and preservatives; common sources include food/beverages, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products. Importantly, sulfites are not included in most screening patch test series and thus may be missed as a relevant contact allergen. The American Contact Dermatitis Society chose sulfites as the Allergen of the Year for 2024 to raise awareness about this significant allergen."

Wash. legislator pushes bill easing process for veterans to become EMTs, paramedics

"In her push to address the emergency medical services (EMS) staffing shortage and ease the process of becoming an emergency medical technician (EMT), U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, D- Washougal, recently told the House Armed Services Committee her proposal would "cut red tape" for veterans looking to transition to becoming a certified EMT or paramedic."

New U.S Global Health Security Strategy Advances Commitment to Protect Americans and People Around the World from Emerging Health Threats

"Advancing the Administration's commitment to protect the American people from the next pandemic, the White House today released The United States Government Global Health Security Strategy (GHSS) 2024, which acknowledges that the United States and the international community can only achieve global, sustainable health security by working with all countries."

Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes and Long-Term Mortality in Women

"In a national cohort study of more than 2 million women in Sweden, women who experienced any of 5 major adverse pregnancy outcomes (preterm delivery, small for gestational age, preeclampsia, other hypertensive disorders, and gestational diabetes) had increased mortality risks that remained elevated more than 40 years later. These findings were not explained by shared familial factors. All major adverse pregnancy outcomes should now be recognized as long-term risk factors for premature mortality in women."

Events

[Click Here for Current and Upcoming Events List](#)

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