

After Australia cut drug copays for indigenous people, hospital use declined

A new study finds that in regions where indigenous Australians most readily accepted a government incentive to lower drug copayments, hospitalizations to treat the population's chronic conditions declined by 40 percent in just two years.

Study questions usefulness of 'rainbow draw'

University of Iowa researchers have shown that most of the extra vials of blood drawn for lab tests never get used and are instead discarded.



How important is the gut microbiome? It may depend on your genetics

Our gut microbiomes—the bacteria that live in our digestive tract—play major roles in our health. Scientists around the world are studying therapies that manipulate the microbiome, including probiotics (such as live bacterial cultures in yogurt), prebiotics (edible fibers meant to promote beneficial bacteria), antibiotics and transplants of microbes from healthy people.

Canada needs national plan to combat opioid epidemic: study

Canada, the second highest consumer of opioids worldwide, must take a comprehensive approach to curb rampant prescribing of opioids and reduce deaths, argue addiction and mental health experts in an analysis in CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal).

Closure of obstetric services in BC did not affect labor and delivery

The closure of obstetric services at hospitals in British Columbia did not result in an increase or decrease in frequency of adverse events during labour and delivery, according to a new study in CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal).

Report outlines opportunities, challenges for kidney health workforce

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) released a new analysis of the kidney health workforce that outlines a mixed picture for the specialty. Authored by researchers from the George Washington University (GWU) Health Workforce Institute, The US Adult Nephrology Workforce 2016: Developments and Trends is available online at <http://www.asn-online.org/workforce>.

Optimised long-term care for persons with dementia

Life expectancy is rising – as is the need for professional long-term care. The care services currently being provided barely meet the existing demand. Therefore, the available resources need to be adapted intelligently. This is the only way, affordable services of sufficient quality can continue to be provided in the future. In-depth and critical analyses are needed as an evidence base for the required adaptation of the existing system, and very few of these are currently available on institutional long-term care in Europe. As part of a project that is being carried out at Danube University Krems in cooperation with the Charles University in Prague and the MAS Alzheimerhilfe, a patient/carer organization in Upper Austria, epidemiological data on the care situation in the Austria and the Czech Republic are now being collected for the first time. The Project is being funded by the Austrian Science Fund FWF and the GACR in the Czech Republic – FWF being the lead agency – and focuses on the situation of persons with dementia who require particularly intensive support.



Prenatal genetic testing of Pap smears

Anthony Weiner and Woody Allen have the same favorite organ; mine is the placenta.



GMOs and cannabis

If there's a topic even more politicized than the US presidential election, it's GMOs . (GMOs are genetically modified organisms, the products of genetic engineering, and opposition to them usually centers on GM crop plants.)

Physical and cognitive fitness may affect ALS risk

New research suggests that physical fitness, body mass index (BMI), IQ, and stress resilience in young adulthood may have effects on the risk of developing amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease.

Poor children with epilepsy may face social hurdles

In a population-based Canadian study of children with epilepsy, each of whom had access to universal health care, those from poor families had the same medical course and remission rate as their wealthier counterparts, but they had a less favorable social outcome as adults.

Reproductive history and hormone use may affect women's cognitive function

In a study of healthy postmenopausal women, reproductive life events related to sex hormones, including earlier age at menarche, later age at last pregnancy, length of reproductive period, and use of oral contraceptives were positively related to aspects of cognition in later life.