

Population Health NEWS

Thought Leaders' Corner

Q. How Can Healthcare Systems Best Secure the Safety of Their Patients?

This is an excellent question especially in light of the recent study by researchers at Johns Hopkins Medicine, which estimates that more than 250,000 Americans die each year from medical errors that can include death from surgical complications, prescription medication mistakes and infections.¹ Further, according to the Urgent Care Association of America, 98% of patients seeking treatment at their local emergency room should be treated at an urgent care center.²

Aside from the time and cost savings associated with this maneuver, urgent care franchises do not accept trauma patients nor do they experience the same volume as an emergency room. Patients presenting to major ERs are also exposed to nosocomial bacterial infections due to the environment.

Specialized, non-hospital care environments are healthier and more efficient for a patient seeking orthopedic acute care. They enable urgent care medical staff extra time with a patient to discuss history and possible underlying conditions in a stress-reduced environment. This minimizes both the risks of infection and the likelihood of prescription medication errors.

Urgent care facilities also secure patient safety in cooperation with their directors of clinical operations, who institutionalize protocols and clinical guidelines targeted specifically to what each patient needs, including help for a sprained ankle, broken bones or any other orthopedic or sports injuries, as well as to the expertise of each non-hospital, care facility. Our OrthoNOW® Centers are subject to routine audits of their clinical program that will monitor compliance with company safety, regulatory and operational policies and procedures.

¹ Allen M, Pierce O. "Medical Errors Are No. 3 of U.S. Deaths, Researchers Say." NPR. May 3, 2016.

² Neighmond P. "Can't Get in to See Your Doctor? Many Patients Turn to Urgent Care." NPR. March 7, 2016.



Alejandro Badia, M.D., FACS
Cofounder, Chief Medical Officer
OrthoNOW®
Doral, Fla..