Health technology hazards for 2016

Released each year by ECRI Institute, Plymouth Meeting, Pa., the Top 10 Health Technology Hazards list details several hazards that put patients at risk. The full report, which includes recommended action steps, may be accessed at ECRI's website.

1. Inadequate cleaning of flexible endoscopes before disinfection can spread deadly pathogens.
2. Missed alarms can have fatal consequences.
3. Failure to effectively monitor postoperative patients for opioid-induced respiratory depression can lead to brain injury or death.
4. Inadequate surveillance of monitored patients in a telemetry setting may put patients at risk.
5. Insufficient training of clinicians on operating room technologies puts patients at increased risk of harm.
6. Errors arise when health information technology configurations and facility workflow do not support each other.
7. Unsafe injection practices expose patients to infectious agents.
8. Gamma camera mechanical failures can lead to serious injury or death.
9. Failure to appropriately operate intensive care ventilators can result in preventable ventilator-induced lung injuries.
10. Misuse of USB ports can cause medical devices to malfunction.

Source: ECRI Institute