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www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org

The Critical Care News Summary is an update from the Roundtable on Critical Care Policy. For further information on the Roundtable, please visit our website at www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org.

Roundtable News

The Roundtable is pleased to announce the launch of its [new website](#) today! Several months in the making, the new website is a much-needed update with lots of information about the Roundtable and our work aimed at raising awareness and educating about the importance of improving the quality, delivery and efficiency of critical care in the United States. We've updated, reorganized, uploaded and archived a lot of content, and some of the website's new features include:

- Under "News" you can find all our weekly Critical Care News Summaries, as well as an archive of all our Special Alerts. A "teaser" for the latest News Summary will be displayed on the middle column of our homepage, and you can view the alert in its entirety by clicking on the date at the top or on the link at the bottom of the column.
- Also on the homepage, in the "Roundtable News & Updates" column to the right you can find the latest about the Roundtable's efforts: the most recent statements, press releases or letters and testimony submitted, as well as registration for our annual National Summit or other upcoming Roundtable events, such as our Washington Outreach Days.
- The "Resources" tab provides a brief explanation and links to government agencies, legislative resources, projects and organizations related to our work at the Roundtable. We will continue to update and add to our list of resources so please feel free to share with us any websites you think our Roundtable participants might be interested in learning about!
- Under the "Advocacy" tab, you can find information about the "Critical Care Assessment and Improvement Act" including press releases and bill summaries. You can view all the letters and testimony submitted on behalf of the Roundtable—we've been very busy!—as well as our press releases and media clips highlighting the Roundtable's work.
- We're also making it easier to capture people's emails and contact us with any questions—we have a place on the homepage for people to sign up for the Roundtable's email updates, and if you go to the "Staff & Contact" under the "About" tab, you can send Roundtable staff a message directly.

Visit the new website at www.criticalcareroundtable.org (the same as address as our previous website) share the link with your colleagues and friends, and please make sure to check back regularly, as we will continually be adding new links, features and information!

Federal Activity

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Methodology Committee-- established to help PCORI set standards for the comparative effectiveness research it will fund-- seeks information from experts in the scientific community on developing and improving the science and methods of comparative clinical effectiveness research. The PCORI Methodology Committee developed draft translation framework components and now seeks feedback on that framework. Specifically, PCORI is requesting suggestions for the improvement of the draft framework components, thoughts on alternate components or frameworks, discussion of how these components apply to different research domains, and comments on the limitations of the proposed framework.

Responses to this Request for Information (RFI) will be considered for inclusion in a May 2012 report, which will be delivered to the PCORI Board of Governors and subject to a formal public comment period before final approval. Authors of case studies chosen for inclusion in the published report, or of suggestions that result in qualitative modification of the framework, will be publically acknowledged. All responses should be submitted electronically no later than **February 17, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. ET**. Any questions should be emailed to RMWG@pcori.org.

News and Reports

"Medication Shortages Surge To Record In 2011," *The Associated Press*, January 3, 2012

The number of new prescription drug shortages in 2011 shot up to 267, well above the prior record and about four times the number of medication shortages in the middle of the last decade. Figures just released by the University of Utah Drug Information Service, which tracks national drug shortages, show there were 56 more newly reported drug shortages in the U.S. last year than in 2010, when there were 211. By contrast, there were only 58 drug shortages reported in 2004.

"Hopkins, Lockheed aim to modernize the ICU," *The Baltimore Sun*, December 25, 2011

Hopkins has a plan to bring ICUs into the 21st century and has joined forces with an unorthodox partner, defense contractor Lockheed Martin, to make it happen. The hospital's Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality has entered into an agreement with Lockheed to combine the two institutions' expertise to create an updated, more efficient ICU. They hope an improved ICU will have widespread benefits: enhanced patient safety, reduced costs, fewer medical errors and a smoother work environment for hospital employees.