

2025-2026 Educational Webinar Series

Patient Safety: Medical Device Incident Investigation

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About the moderator



Priyanka Shah, MS

ECRI

Member, education committee

Priyanka Shah is a principal project engineer in the Device Safety group at ECRI where she performs medical device evaluations, investigates system failures, develops practical guidance for healthcare facilities, conducts accident investigations, and consults healthcare facilities on pre-purchase selection, and appropriate use of medical equipment, and health IT systems. She is the lead subject matter expert on physiologic patient monitoring, alarm management, EHR usability, home health, and telehealth.

Logistics

- ❖ All attendees have their microphones muted during the presentation.
- ❖ Questions to the panelists must be submitted via the “Q&A” feature in Zoom at any time. They will be addressed at the Q&A portion.
- ❖ If there is any urgent issue, please use the “chat” feature to communicate with the host/moderator.
- ❖ Please remember to complete the webinar evaluation after attending. A link will be provided at the end.

Session Description

**When medical devices fail,
patient safety can be on the line.**

**This webinar covers best practices
for investigating medical device related incidents.**

About the Panelist



Matthew F. Baretich, P.E., Ph.D.

Baretich Engineering

Matt Baretich is a consultant in clinical engineering and forensic engineering.

His largest current project is leading the CMMS replacement project for all HTM programs in British Columbia.

He is a founder, past-president, and fellow of the American College of Clinical Engineering.

About the Panelist



Erin Sparnon, MEng, FACCE, AAMIF

*AI Business Integration Strategist
ICA, Inc.*

Erin Sparnon has over 20 years' experience in medical device and patient safety research, education, and advocacy with industry groups including ACCE, AAMI, HIMSS, and HFES. She has contributed to ACCE educational seminars, webinars, and newsletters over her 15+ years as a member.

Currently, she is an AI Business Integration Strategist at ICA, Inc., where she helps set the agenda for how AI and ML can be used to enable better and faster workflows for federal agencies.

Prior to ICA, she was a Senior Engineering Manager in ECRI's Device Evaluation Group.

About the Panelist



Jeremy F. Suggs, Sc.D.

*Senior Engineering Manager
ECRI*

Dr. Jeremy Suggs currently serves as Engineering Manager in the Preventive Solutions and Operations arm of ECRI's Device Safety Group where he performs independent third-party investigations of healthcare incidents especially those that involve medical devices.

Dr. Suggs earned his doctorate in Mechanical Engineering with a focus in orthopedic biomechanics. He was then a consultant, providing technical assistance in patent infringement and product liability litigation, review of complaint databases, and analysis of potential injury mechanisms in personal injury litigation. Prior to joining ECRI, he did product development for an orthopedic device company.

During his tenure with ECRI his work has involved comparative assessments and accident investigations covering a wide range of medical and hospital-related technologies, ranging from surgical tools, anesthesia, and physiologic monitoring to disinfection products, patient lifts, and clinical communication systems.

About the Panelist



Shelly Leacock, MS, CCE, PMP

Biomedical Engineer

VHA Healthcare Technology Management

SHELLY LEACOCK is a Biomedical Engineer with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for over 21 years

- Leads VA's HTM medical device recalls and incident response program
- Provides direction and support regarding equipment management, alerts, recalls, incident response, continuing education, and medical device safety
- Optimizes VA healthcare system's Joint Commission readiness and overall performance through comprehensive HTM program assessments and tools to support the field.

AWARDS

- AAMI Young Professional Award (2014)
- AAMI & Becton Dickinson's Patient Safety Award (2019)

HTM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- AAMI Healthcare Technology Leadership Council
- AAMI Equipment Management (EQ) Standards Committee
- NFPA 99 Medical Equipment Standards Committee
- ECRI Health Devices Advisory Board

About the Panelist



Henry (Hank) Stankiewicz, MS

*Sigma Health Consulting
Subject Matter Expert*

Hank works for Sigma's Healthcare Technology Management consulting practice in its support of VA Healthcare, primarily in the HTM area.

- Worked 37 years as a Biomedical Engineer and senior management roles in the VA
- Led HTM programs as Chief BME at the medical center, regional, and enterprise levels
- Pioneered a regional consolidated HTM Program within VA

AWARDS

- ACCE Fellow designation
- ACCE Lifetime Achievement Award
- VA Chief BME of the Year (2x)
- ACCE Leadership Award

HTM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Former member ACCE Certification and Awards Committees
- Former VP of the Healthcare Technology Foundation
- Member of ACCE, IEEE, Eta Kappa Nu, and NESCE

Question 1:

- What qualifies as a medical device related incident investigation, and at what point are you typically brought into the process?



Question 2:

- What are the key steps for conducting a comprehensive investigation?
 - Are there any steps that you find are commonly overlooked or underemphasized?



Question 3:

- Who are the primary stakeholders during an investigation?
 - What are some recommendations for effective communication and collaboration with these stakeholders?



Question 4:

- How do you approach an investigation when the device in question is either:
 - (1) not sequestered and/or been put back in service;
 - (2) not reproducing the reported error/malfunction
- Any best practices for preserving the equipment/evidence?



Question 5:

- What are some best practices or recommendations for HTM teams conducting these complex incident investigations?



Any questions?



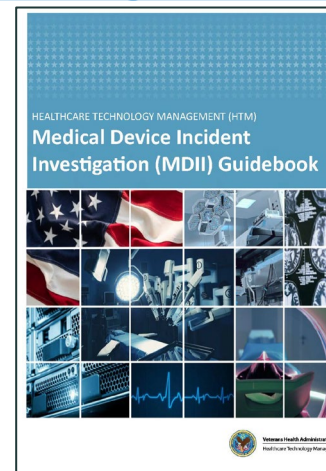
**Please type your questions
to the Zoom Q&A window**

Resources shared during the webinar

- A Success Story: Improving Documentation of Medical Device Patient Safety Events



- VA Medical Device Incident Investigation (MDII) Guidebook



Thank You!

Stay tuned for February webinar!

ACCE 2025-2026 Educational Webinar Series
Joint Commission Updates - 2026

FREE for MEMBERS

Thursday, February 12, 2026
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (EST)

Stay ahead of the curve with the latest Joint Commission Updates for 2026.
Gain insights to the latest changes to Joint Commission requirements and ensure compliance.

Michael S. Bernstein, MSE, MBA, CHSP, PE, CHFM, CCE
Life Safety Code Supervisor
JOINT COMMISSION

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