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Comment from Hofman, Jessica

Submitter Information

Name: Jessica Hofman

Address: United States,

Email: jhofman@umich.edu

General Comment

As a registered nurse (RN) who has cared for patients with complications resulting from medical tourism, implementing a surveillance system is a much-needed strategy to understand the burden this practice puts on the U.S. Healthcare system. To make sure these cases are truly detected and reported, local and state health departments need to collaborate with hospital systems, specifically health informatics leadership responsible for electronic health record (EHR) management. Integrating a question into the EHR intake form that takes medical tourism into account could flag a chart as being appropriate for surveillance for the health department. As RNs are often responsible for health information intake, collaboration with them in the emergency department or urgent care settings could also ensure appropriate surveillance of this patient population.