



# VBIDHEALTH

## Recent News and Noteworthy Reads

- [\*\*New Statewide Pilot in Virginia Aims to Reduce Low-Value Care, Decrease Costs and Patient Harm\*\*](#) (AJMC) -- The Virginia Center for Health Innovation will lead a multi-stakeholder collaborative effort to reduce low-value care in the Commonwealth, following successful [measurement and reporting efforts](#) and a [grant from the Arnold Foundation](#). Congrats, Beth!
- [\*\*How Much Diagnostic Imaging Is Inappropriate and What Does It Cost?\*\*](#) (NIHCM) -- a summary of research on the appropriateness of diagnostic imaging ([see full academic article](#)).
- [\*\*Telemedicine tied to more antibiotics for kids, study finds\*\*](#) (WaPo) -- kids with a cold who were seen by a physician through telemedicine were far more likely to receive unnecessary antibiotics.
- [\*\*Cancer Patients Are Getting Robotic Surgery. There's No Evidence It's Better.\*\*](#) (NYT) -- "High-tech surgical robots aren't an improvement over traditional operations, the F.D.A. warns. For some patients, the robots may be worse."
- [\*\*Tens of Thousands of Heart Patients May Not Need Open-Heart Surgery\*\*](#) (NYT) -- "...transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), has been reserved mostly for patients so old and sick they might not survive open-heart surgery. Now, two large clinical trials show that TAVR is just as useful in younger, healthier patients."

## Research

- [\*\*Evaluation of an Intervention to Reduce Low-Value Preoperative Care for Patients Undergoing Cataract Surgery at a Safety-Net Health System\*\*](#) (JAMA): the full article is attached along with the Task Force convening slides from author, John Mafi. ([Twitter](#)) Congrats, John!
- [\*\*Measuring 21 low-value hospital procedures: claims analysis of Australian private health insurance data \(2010–2014\)\*\*](#) (BMJ open) -- researchers found an estimated "2014 (Australian) Medicare contributions for admissions with low-value procedures to be between \$A1.8 and \$A2.9 million, and total charges

between \$A12.4 and \$A22.7 million." ... between 20-30% of contacts with the tracked services from this sample were considered low-value.

- **Measuring Hospital-Acquired Complications Associated With Low-Value Care** (JAMA) -- "... findings suggest that use of these 7 procedures [, ranging from spinal fusions and knee arthroscopy or carotid endarterectomy in asymptomatic, high-risk patients,] in patients who probably should not receive them is harming some of those patients, consuming additional hospital resources, and potentially delaying care for other patients for whom the services would be appropriate. (Related [Lown Institute Weekly blog](#) on this article).