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2017 GA Chapter American College of Physicians

Who’s responsible for protecting patient data in the
Cloud computing is still fairly new to healthcare and, as such, confusion and a few myths surround the technology. And many of those skewed perceptions are driven by simple misunderstandings, most notably about information security. Indeed, cloud providers offer a lineup of advantages that on-premise solutions sometimes do not: physical and software security, access control for authentication, regulatory compliance, advanced encryption, high availability and data center redundancy, continuous monitoring, as well as multi-tenant segmentation. READ MORE

CDC: Opioid prescriptions falling but remain too high

The U.S. is in the midst of an opioid crisis. Millions of Americans are addicted to the powerful prescription painkillers, and tens of thousands are dying each year from overdoses. A new report offers a bit of hope: Doctors are prescribing opioids less often, and the average dose they're giving patients has dropped, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, the number of patients getting opioids is still too high, and doctors are giving their patients prescriptions that last longer, according to the report in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. "The bottom line is that too many [people] are still getting too much for too long," says Anne Schuchat, the CDC's acting director. "And that is driving our problem with drug overdoses and drug overdose deaths in the country." READ MORE

Study shows meaningful use spurred hospital EHR adoption

The researchers caution that the law has not been a complete success. "Real challenges remain, particularly in the domains of interoperability and usability," they write. "Nonetheless, speeding the national timeline of hospitals' EHR adoption was a key first step toward digitizing the healthcare system and facilitating the transition to paying for value." They note EHR adoption among eligible hospitals grew by eight percentage points per year from 2010 to 2015, pushing hospitals past the halfway point. "There are likely very few other policies that have driven such substantial change in such a short period," the authors add. READ MORE

CMS finalizes 90-day reporting for meaningful use

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has cemented a 90-day reporting period for attesting to meaningful use of electronic health records, part of a variety flexibilities for hospitals and physicians in a final rule published recently. "We are establishing new requirements or revising existing requirements for eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals participating in the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs," stated the rule, which goes into effect Oct. 1. READ MORE