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## Tools to address health care delivery challenges and improve patient outcomes

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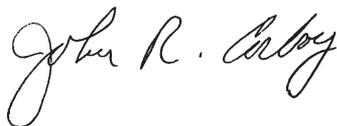
Articles in this issue of *Neurology*<sup>®</sup> *Clinical Practice* (NCP) examine timely issues related to improving health care delivery and improving patient outcomes.

Ashizawa et al. (on behalf of the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation) (p. 507) provide consensus-based care recommendations to help standardize and elevate care for adults with myotonic dystrophy type 1. As no evidence-based guideline currently exists to inform the care of these patients, the investigators provide a useful Quick Reference Guide for neurology practitioners. Mulvey et al. (p. 468) demonstrate how an electronic health record (EHR) alert may offer a promising tool to identify comorbidities that affect patients with neurologic illness. The researchers found that EHR alerts resulted in improved identification of epilepsy patients at risk for obstructive sleep apnea and referral for polysomnography.

McGehrin et al. (p. 521) propose a novel approach to preservation of patient autonomy. The Coordinating Options for Acute Stroke Therapy (COAST) Stroke Advance Directive may expedite management and treatment of stroke patients when disability prevents proper communication and their decision-making capacity is compromised. Villamar et al. (p. 486) discuss implementation of a status epilepticus alert protocol system that led to a marked reduction in the time between computerized order entry and administration of a second-line antiseizure medicine in hospitalized adults.

In our popular Five New Things series, Bhatt et al. (p. 501) summarize the latest developments regarding risk factors, specific etiologic causes, and management strategies in ischemic stroke in young adults. Ganesh et al. (p. 527) provide commentary on available evidence and opinions from internationally recognized experts on our latest Practice Current topic: "How do you manage patients with a 'hot carotid?'" An accompanying editorial by Chaturvedi (p. 466) discusses preliminary results from the survey and asserts that modern randomized controlled trials are needed for symptomatic carotid stenosis. Please consider completing the survey to add your own perspective at [NPub.org/NCP/pc8](http://NPub.org/NCP/pc8).

We welcome your feedback on this issue and invite suggestions for making NCP a valuable resource for you and your colleagues.



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# Neurology® Clinical Practice

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