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Here are some recent health care stories from AskaPatient's news feed:

- [Drug assistance programs offer little charity to the uninsured](#)

Researchers at Johns Hopkins examined data on the six largest independent charities offering patient assistance programs through 274 different disease-specific programs. Nearly all of the programs - 97% of them - only helped patients with health insurance, typically by covering the cost of out-of-pocket expenses like co-payments or by contributing to premiums.

- [Canada enacts drug price crackdown](#)

The Canadian government announced final regulations to reduce patented drug prices. Lower prices will save Canadians C\$13.2 billion (\$10 billion) over a decade. With heavy opposition from pharmaceutical companies, lawsuits are expected, but this plan has been in the works for more than a year.

- [Anti-parasitic drug could offer treatment for Ebola](#)

Amid the worsening Ebola outbreak in the Congo, now threatening to spill into Rwanda, a new study suggests that an existing, FDA-approved drug called [nitazoxanide](#) could potentially help contain this deadly, highly contagious infection.

- [Kidney charity directed aid to patients at DaVita and Fresenius clinics, lawsuit claims](#)

The American Kidney Fund steered financial aid to patients of its two biggest corporate donors — the dialysis chains DaVita and Fresenius — while denying help to people who used smaller, unrelated clinics, in violation of anti-kickback laws, according to a federal whistle-blower lawsuit unsealed this week in Boston.

- [Change the bias, change the behavior? Maybe not](#)

In a meta-analysis of published research, psychologists tease out how changes in implicit bias do -- and do not -- appear to lead to changes in behavior.

- [Gold nanoparticles' movements reveal whether they can successfully target cancer](#)

Researchers have developed a new way to determine whether or not single drug-delivery nanoparticles will successfully hit their intended targets -- by simply analyzing each nanoparticle's distinct movements in real time.

- [Low vitamin D levels linked to non-motor symptoms in patients with Parkinson's disease](#)

Study findings suggest that vitamin D supplementation may help to treat non-motor symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease.

- [New type of cell discovered in liver that might one day eliminate need for liver transplants](#)

King's College London discovered a liver cell that has "stem cell-like properties," with the potential to regenerate damaged liver cells and one day treat disease in the organ without the need for a transplant.

New opinion poll:

Presidential candidates' positions on health care cybersecurity

Among current presidential candidates for the 2020 election, **health care** has received a lot of attention. However, most of the focus has been on issues related to **access** to health care (such as universal health care and the Affordable

Care Act) and **cost** issues (such as ways to bring down drug prices.)

So far, little attention has been given to health information technology issues, including cybersecurity, data breaches, thefts, leaks, and privacy concerns. According to the Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights [portal](#), there were **229** reported health care information breaches affecting at least 500 people between August 2017 and August 2018. The number of breaches grew by more than one-third the next year: between August 2018 and August 2019, the number of reported incidents affecting at least 500 people was **370**, involving millions of patients' records. Smaller data breaches (less than 500 patients) are not available in the HHS public portal, and there are more than 30,000 such reports filed each year.

An [investigation by ProPublica](#) in 2015 found that companies with repeat data violations face few consequences. A separate investigation found that it is the [small-scale violations](#) (involving a small number of patient records) that do the most harm to people.

Please answer this quick poll:

How important is it for presidential candidates to address growing concerns about health care data security, including patient privacy?

- Extremely Important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Not sure

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