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Clarification

In the Sept. 23 edition of *HEN Hot Topics*, an article, *CDC Releases Updated 2014-2015 Influenza Recommendations*, stated the following; “The CDC recommends those over age 65 be administered a high-dose flu shot, which gives stronger immune response and greater protection against the flu.”

To clarify, while the CDC’s Web site lists this high-dose flu shot as an option, it did not express a preference for any flu vaccine indicated for people 65 and older. CDC recommends flu vaccination as the first and most important step in protecting against the flu.

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CDC Issues Updated Preparedness Framework for Flu Pandemics

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday issued an updated [framework](#) for pandemic flu preparedness and response, which incorporates information from new planning and response tools and aligns with the World Health Organization’s new pandemic phases.

The framework is intended to support and organize planning and response efforts at the federal, state and local levels. The use of common concepts is critical for tracking the course of the pandemic, for communication and for implementing timely, coordinated response efforts, the CDC said.

According to the CDC, “Compared with the previous U.S. government stages, this updated framework provides greater detail and clarity regarding the potential timing of key decisions and actions aimed at slowing the spread and mitigating the impact of an emerging pandemic.”

Labor Induction Can Cause Significant Medical Issues for Mothers and Babies

Approximately one-in-four U.S. births are induced, a number that has more than doubled since 1990, according to the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN).

According to a [position statement](#) published in the September/October issue of AWHONN's *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing*, researchers have demonstrated that inducing labor without a medical reason increases the risks for complications for both mother and baby, and should not be done except when medically necessary and especially not for convenience.

Induced labor is associated with an increased risk for hemorrhage when compared with spontaneous labor. Hemorrhage increases the risk for blood transfusion, hysterectomy, a longer hospital stay and more hospital readmissions.

For babies, induction can result in more fetal stress, more respiratory illness, more separation from the mother, interrupted bonding and less breastfeeding. In addition, when complications occur, babies are more likely to be admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit, have longer hospital stays and more hospital re-admissions.

There are significant health benefits for the woman and fetus when labor starts on its own. Naturally occurring hormones prepare the woman and fetus for labor and birth.

Save the Date

Please note: While the information below is a list of planned programs for 2014, at this time not all programs can be accessed online for registration.

Oct. 14	Webinar: 2014 Fall Prevention Update
Oct. 21	Improving Surgical Safety and Patient Outcomes
Nov. 10	Statewide Perinatal Safety Collaborative – Fall Learning Session
Nov. 11	A Call to Action: Advance Care Planning Provider Summit
Nov. 19	2015 Joint Commission Hospital Accreditation Update
Nov. 20	Patient and Family Engagement across the Continuum and Across Cultures in N.J.
Dec. 1	Honoring our Military: Caring for Those Who Have Served

[Click here to register.](#)