

paper. Included among the other specific recommendations for improvement in the white paper are the following:

- The sensitization, education, and training of clinicians and health care organization leaders and staff regarding health literacy issues and patient-centered communications
- The enhanced training and use of interpreters for patients
- The redesign of informed

consent process and related forms

- The use of established patient-communication methods, such as teach back
- Health care organizations' assessment of the literacy levels and language needs of the communities they serve
- The integration of patient communication as priority into emerging physician pay-for-performance programs
- The provision of med-

ical liability insurance discounts for physicians who apply patient-centered communication techniques

"What Did the Doctor Say?": Improving Health Literacy to Protect Patient Safety is available at www.jointcommission.org. The report is part of a continuing series of white papers on key public policy issues that have an impact on patient safety and health care quality.

NTDB® data points

The rockets' red glare

by Richard J. Fantus, MD, FACS, and Joshua Fantus, Chicago, IL

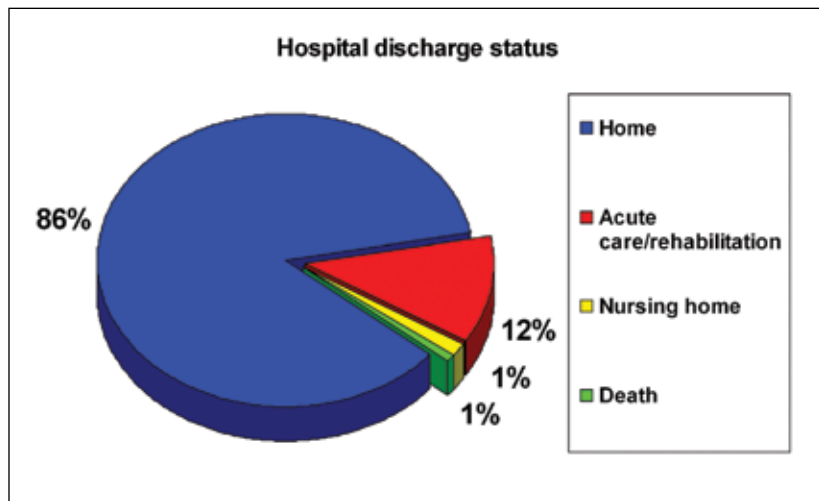
This month marks the 231st birthday of the U.S. The first Fourth of July celebration in 1777 involved bell-ringing, firing of guns, lighting of candles, and firecrackers. Each year on or around the Fourth of July, this celebration is repeated around the country with fireworks.

Legend has it that the discovery of fireworks dates back more than 2,000 years to when a Chinese cook inadvertently mixed together three kitchen ingredients common at that time (saltpeter, sulfur, and charcoal). When lit, the result was colorful flames. When enclosed in a bamboo shoot and ignited, a tremendous explosion resulted.

Each year the fireworks displays become more elaborate, and it is common to see paired

explosions synchronized with music simulcasts. These exhibitions are magnificent but require handling by pyrotechnic professionals and involve many safety procedures. Problems

occur when individuals take matters into their own hands. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc>), their data show



that in 2004 there were 9,600 people treated in emergency departments; two-thirds of these injuries occurred in the month surrounding the 4th of July. Among these patients, 40 percent were 14 years or younger, 76 percent were male, and eight died. The top three causes of injury were firecrackers, sparklers, and rockets.

To examine the occurrence of these injuries in the National Trauma Data Bank® Dataset 6.0, we used the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification cause of injury code E 923.0 for accident caused by explosive material—fireworks. There were 710 records found with discharge status recorded. Of these, 609 were discharged to home, 85 to acute care/rehabilitation, and 10 to nursing

homes; there were six deaths. These data are depicted in the figure on page 95. Victims were 90 percent male and on average 24 years of age; there was an average length of hospital stay of 4.1 days and an average injury severity score of 5.48; of those tested, almost one-third were positive for alcohol.

The lighting of fireworks is serious business; after all, they are black powder derivatives. Laws on fireworks vary from state to state, and though individuals untrained in large pyrotechnics should not handle large fireworks, the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (<http://www.cpsc.gov>) has recommended some simple safety measures: Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks, read and follow all warnings and instructions, be

sure others are out of range before lighting, only light on a smooth flat surface away from flammable materials, never try to relight fireworks, and keep a bucket of water nearby. If you choose to light your own fireworks and get a close look at the rockets' red glare, make sure the bombs bursting are in the air.

Throughout the year, this column will provide brief monthly reports. The full NTDB *Annual Report Version 6.0* is available on the ACS Web site as a PDF file and a PowerPoint presentation at <http://www.ntdb.org>.

If you are interested in submitting your trauma center's data, contact Melanie L. Neal, Manager, NTDB, at mneal@facs.org.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OFFICIAL JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES

designed, crafted and produced exclusively by Jim Henry, Inc.

World Class Quality

not just a slogan — it's our promise

Designed expressly for the American College of Surgeons, these emblematic items are crafted to perfection in the Jim Henry tradition of excellence.

TIE TAC/LAPEL PIN		MINIATURE CHARM		DIPLOMA PLAQUE	
#S1 Dbl. Gold Filled	\$50	(Not Shown)		#S18 Satin Brass	\$275
#S2 Solid 14K Gold	\$175	#S11 Dbl. Gold Filled	\$50	#S19 Silver Finish	\$275
CUFF LINKS (Not Shown)		#S12 Solid 14K Gold	\$175	8-1/2" x 12" metal plaque	
#S3 Dbl. Gold Filled	\$150	MONEY CLIP (Not Shown)		on 11" x 14-1/2" walnut.	
#S4 Solid 14K Gold	\$525	#S13 Gold Filled Emblem	\$50	Specify name, day, month, year elected.	
KEY (Not Shown)		RING		WOMAN'S BOW TIE	
#S5 Dbl. Gold Filled	\$85	#S14 Solid 14K Gold	\$1,150	(PRETTIED) (Not Shown)	
#S6 Solid 14K Gold	\$300	(Indicate finger size)		#S20 Dark Blue	\$35
MINIATURE KEY		TIE BAR		#S21 Maroon	\$35
(Not Shown)		#S15 Gold Filled Emblem	\$50	MAN'S BOW TIE	
#S7 Dbl. Gold Filled	\$75	NECKTIE		(UNTIED) (Not Shown)	
#S8 Solid 14K Gold	\$200	#S16A Dark Blue	\$35	#S22 Dark Blue	\$35
CHARM (Not Shown)		#S16B Med. Lt. Blue	\$35	#S23 Maroon	\$35
#S9 Dbl. Gold Filled	\$60	#S17 Maroon	\$35		
#S10 Solid 14K Gold	\$275				

JIM HENRY, INC.

435 - 37th Avenue, St. Charles, Illinois 60174

Phone: 630/584-6500 FAX 630/584-3036 e-mail sales@jimhenryinc.com

- Please use model # and item description when ordering.
- Include payment with order.
- VISA, American Express, & MasterCard accepted.
- Prices subject to major changes in gold prices.
- Send order direct to Jim Henry Inc.
- ILLINOIS residents - add 7½% sales tax.