After a Sluggish Start, Vaccine Rollout Is Improving in Every State
New York Times · Lauren Leatherby and Amy Schoenfeld Walker · Feb 12, 2021
The slow start to the Covid-19 vaccine rollout in the United States has been no secret: Seniors have waited in long lines for a dose, vaccine registration websites have crashed and public health resources were tied up during the country's biggest surge yet in early January.

Major Hospitals Form Company to Capitalize on Their Troves of Health Data
Wall Street Journal · Anna Wilde Mathews · Feb 11, 2021
A group of major hospital systems is launching a company to pull together and sell access to anonymized data on their millions of patients for uses including research and drug development.

How Much Does a C-Section Cost? At One Hospital, Anywhere From $6,241 to $60,584.
Wall Street Journal · Anna Wilde Mathews, Tom McGinty and Melanie Evans · Feb 11, 2021
New federally mandated disclosures by California’s Sutter Health illustrate the wide disparity in healthcare rates negotiated by insurers.

As Millions Get Shots, F.D.A. Struggles to Get Safety Monitoring System Running
New York Times · Sheila Kaplan · Feb 12, 2021
For now, the government has been relying on a patchwork of programs that officials say are hampered by limited size and gaps in data collection.

KLAS Ranks EHR Clinical Documentation Improvement Tools, Vendors
EHRIntelligence · Christopher Jason · Feb 11, 2021
Healthcare organizations with EHR clinical documentation improvement tools ranked Iodine and ChartWise as the clear vendors of choice.
EHR Multitasking Causes and How to Improve Clinician Burnout
EHRintelligence · Christopher Jason · Feb 1, 2021
EHR usability, patient data overload, and patient and provider communication behavior are some of the top EHR multitasking practices that result in clinician burnout.

GAO tells VA to stop rollout of $16B EHR program for more testing, or risk failure
FedScoop · Jackson Barnett · Feb 1, 2021
The Government Accountability Office has recommended that the Department of Veterans Affairs stop work on its new electronic health record (EHR) modernization program to conduct “critical” tests before launching at any more medical centers.

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Researchers grew clusters of brain cells in the lab with a gene carried by our ancient ancestors.

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Scientists turn to machine learning to tackle one of gene therapy’s biggest challenges
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As the world charges to vaccinate the population against the coronavirus, gene therapy developers are locked in a counterintuitive race. Instead of training the immune system to recognize and combat a virus, they’re trying to do the opposite: designing viruses the body has never seen, and can’t fight back against.
Precision Medicine Platform Aims to Advance Cancer Gene Therapies
HealthITAnalytics · Jessica Kent · Feb 11, 2021
A team from Cleveland Clinic has developed a precision medicine platform designed to accelerate cancer gene therapies and genome-informed drug discovery.

Drugmakers Look for New Ways to Test Covid-19 Vaccines
Wall Street Journal · Peter Loftus · Feb 11, 2021
Researchers aim to measure how much immune response a shot triggers—potentially useful for assessing new shots and new uses.

Population Health

Biden says U.S. will have enough vaccine for 300 million people by end of July
Washington Post · Isaac Stanley-Becker, Lena H. Sun and Laurie McGinley · Feb 12, 2021
President Biden said Thursday that his administration had finalized deals for another 200 million doses of the two coronavirus vaccines authorized in the United States, giving the country enough vaccine by the end of July to cover every American adult.

Related Coverage:
• With More Vaccines Secured, Biden Warns of Hurdles to Come
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Covid Vaccines for Kids Are Coming, but Not for Many Months
New York Times · Apoorva Mandavilli · Feb 12, 2021
Pfizer and Moderna are testing their vaccines on children 12 and older and hope to have results by the summer.

Social Media Highlights

AMIA
@AMI Ainformatics
Join the AMIA Consumer and Public Health Informatics Working Group for a webinar with speaker @shefali_h. She will discuss the use and impact of an online community for hospital patients. February 22, 12-1 pm EST. Bookmark this link! https://t.co/7s0dSH7jkq
Feb 11, 2021

Eric Topol
@EricTopol
What a good covid day in the US looks like —2 million people got vaccinated; rate nearly doubled in 3 wks —a large drug trial finds significant improved survival (IL-6 blocker) —200 million more vaccines secured
Feb 12, 2021

Apoorva Mandavilli
@apoorva_nyc
BREAKING: Many experts suspected this was true even then, but when hospitalized with Covid in October, Trump's blood oxygen levels had plunged and officials feared he was on the verge of being placed on a ventilator. 
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