

ECRI's *Strategic Insights for Ambulatory Care* newsletter is being offered to CAPIC insureds at no cost. If you are interested in visiting any of the links in this edition, please contact Brad Dunkin, Assistant Vice President, at BDunkin@CAPphysicians.com.



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Strategic Insights for Ambulatory Care is a biweekly service provided by ECRI and the Cooperative of American Physicians (CAP). We welcome your comments; please send them to AmbulatoryCareRM@ecri.org.



Spotlight on Patients with Physical, Intellectual Disabilities

ECRI ranked **Providing Equitable Care for People with Physical and Intellectual Disabilities** #7 on our 2024 list of top patient safety concerns. More than 27% of US adults have a disability, but only 41% of physicians feel "very confident" regarding their ability to provide equitable care to these patients. Despite the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act more than 30 years ago, barriers to accessible care still exist. As a result of these barriers, one in four adults with disabilities between ages 18 and 44 do not have a dedicated healthcare provider and one in five adults between ages 45 and 64 has not had a routine check-up within the past year.



[Read the report](#)

Patient Safety & Relations

ACOG Guidance Recommends Universal Screening for Syphilis

What's the news. Updated guidance from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommends that obstetrician-gynecologists and other obstetric care professionals screen all pregnant individuals for syphilis three times during pregnancy—at the first prenatal care visit, during the third trimester, and again at birth, according to an [April 18, 2024, ACOG news release](#).

Why it matters. Congenital syphilis cases have been increasing in recent years. Most of these cases can be prevented with timely testing and treatment during pregnancy.

How ECRI can help. Healthcare organizations can implement the strategies provided in [Taking Action: Strategies to Combat the Congenital Syphilis Epidemic](#) to address and combat the growing congenital syphilis epidemic.

USPSTF Recommends Biennial Screening Mammography

What's the news. The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends biennial screening mammography for women aged 40 to 74 years, according to an [article published April 30, 2024, in JAMA](#). Current evidence is insufficient to determine the balance of benefits and harms of screening mammography in women 75 years or older.

Why it matters. According to the article, "among all US women, breast cancer is the second most common cancer and the second most common cause of cancer death." Timely breast cancer screening can help facilitate early diagnosis and treatment.

How ECRI can help. Organizations can implement the strategies in [Taking Action: Erasing Race-Based Disparities in Breast Cancer Care](#) to help identify and address disparities in breast cancer care.

Worker & Environmental Safety

Nurse Survey Indicates Importance of Better Pay Rates, Staffing, Schedules

What's the news. AMN Healthcare's recent report, [Nurses in 2024: A Brief Check-In](#), found that surveyed nurses consider better pay rates (75%), increased staffing (68%), and better schedules/hours (58%) to be extremely important factors in the workplace.

Why it matters. Survey findings emphasize the importance of improving work environments for nurses in order to enhance job satisfaction and retention.

How ECRI can help. The article [Improving Healthcare Worker Well-Being](#) discusses how to assess, measure, and track worker well-being, and how to implement or improve support programs and resources.

Legal & Regulatory

FDA Evaluating Plastic Syringes Made in China for Potential Device Failures

What's the news. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning regarding unauthorized plastic syringes made in China because of potential quality and performance issues, recommending that healthcare providers and facilities transition away from using plastic syringes made in China, if possible, and to closely monitor syringes for leaks, breakage, or other problems, according to an [April 25, 2024, FDA safety communication](#).

Why it matters. Syringe failures—including leaks, cracks, or breakage—can put patients at risk of receiving incorrect medication doses, which may lead to serious patient harm or death.

How ECRI can help. See ECRI's [recent news release](#) for more information about the FDA warning and how ECRI can help.

HHS OCR Finalizes Rule Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Disability

What's the news. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has issued a final rule that updates and strengthens the implementing regulation for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, advancing equity and prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities, according to an [HHS fact sheet published April 30, 2024](#). Specifically, the rule addresses medical treatment, child welfare programs and activities, web and mobile accessibility, and accessible medical equipment. The final rule is scheduled to be published May 9, 2024.

Why it matters. Addressing discrimination against vulnerable patient populations, including those with disabilities, helps improve health equity and patient safety.

How ECRI can help. Organizations can implement the strategies provided in [Taking Action: Strategies to Advance Health Equity](#) to identify and address disparities their patients may face.

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