

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

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. **Alzheimer's disease**—the most common type of dementia—is estimated to affect nearly seven million older adults in 2024 and, barring any medical breakthroughs to prevent or cure the disease, prevalence is expected to grow to nearly 13 million by 2050. Listed are ECRI's resources on dementia diagnosis and care, including Alzheimer's disease.

- [Diagnostic Excellence in Dementia Care](#)
- [Dementia Care in Aging Services](#)
- [Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns for 2023: Consequences of Poor Care Coordination for Patients with Complex Medical Conditions](#)



What's New?

- [Harnessing AI for Better Health: Managing Risks to Maximize Benefits](#) [read more](#)

- ECRI Now: ECRI's New SALUTE Program for Veteran Health [watch or listen now](#)

Patient Safety & Relations

ChatGPT and Google Translate Can Help with Pediatric Discharge Instructions, Sometimes

What's the news. ChatGPT and Google Translate were at least equivalent to professional translations when translating pediatric discharge instructions in Spanish and Portuguese, but professional translators consistently outperformed machine translation for Haitian Creole, according to a [June 11, 2024, study in *Pediatrics*](#). Further, machine translation showed an increased risk of clinically significant errors for Haitian Creole translation, researchers say.

Why it matters. While ChatGPT and Google Translate are low-cost and user-friendly platforms, this study shows that patients who speak languages other than English may be disproportionately exposed to the possibility of clinical harm and poorer quality of care.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Culturally and Linguistically Competent Care](#) discusses laws and regulations related to providing care to patients with limited English proficiency, and how lack of linguistically appropriate care impacts patient experiences and outcomes.

Missed HIV Screenings among Oral PrEP Users

What's the news. Approximately one-third of prescriptions for oral HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) from 2018 to 2021 were filled by a patient who had not been tested for HIV in the prior three months, according to a [study in the May 2024 *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*](#). The study reviewed insurance claims for more than 400,000 PrEP prescriptions issued to nearly 40,000 patients, evaluating claims for HIV testing in the 3, 6, and 12 months prior to prescriptions being filled. Nearly all users were male, and they were predominantly White (44%), Black/African American (24%), and Hispanic/Latinx (9%). While most users had HIV testing within the three months of initial prescription, rural patients and patients in the North Central and Southern portions of the United States were less likely to continue testing every three months.

Why it matters. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends HIV testing for PrEP patients every three months; failure to maintain a routine testing schedule raises the risk of undiagnosed infections.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Delivering LGBTQ-Inclusive Healthcare](#) provides recommendations to ensure that practices are welcoming and understanding of diverse orientations and identities.

Legal & Regulatory

Joint Commission Updates Position to Allow Texting of Patient Info, Orders

What's the news. Joint Commission-accredited healthcare organizations that implement a secure texting platform (STP) may text patient information and orders to members of a patient's care team, Joint Commission says in a [June 5, 2024, announcement](#). Organizations that choose to text information are required to implement an STP that meets certain legal requirements; establish policies and procedures to assess privacy and security; confirm texted orders meet certain data capturing requirements; and ensure accuracy, promptness, and proper retention of information.

Why it matters. Texting patient information outside of an STP without proper encryption and safety measures can lead to privacy breaches and HIPAA violations. Text messages are also vulnerable to being imprecise or too brief to decipher when sent in a busy environment by a distracted provider.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Collaboration and Communication among Healthcare Providers](#) discusses texting orders, including legal and regulatory considerations.

Which Physicians Are Most Likely to Be Reported by Peers for Unprofessional Behavior?

What's the news. About 9% of physicians had at least one report from a coworker describing unprofessional behavior, according to a [June 6, 2024, study in JAMA Network Open](#). Surgeons were the most likely to receive a coworker report, while physicians with a pediatric focus were the least likely to receive a report of unprofessional behavior, researchers say.

Why it matters. Disruptive behavior among healthcare professionals can adversely affect patient care, undermining safety culture and exposing patients to preventable risks.

How ECRI can help. The article [Disruptive Practitioner Behavior](#) covers types of disruptive behavior, its possible consequences for healthcare organizations, and interventions that organizations can use to decrease or mitigate disruptive behavior.

FDA, Health Canada, MHRA Publish Principles on Transparency and Machine Learning-Enabled Medical Devices

What's the news. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), Health Canada, and the United Kingdom's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have identified guiding principles for transparency for machine learning-enabled medical devices, according to a [June 13, 2024, FDA article](#). Effective transparency of machine learning-enabled medical devices ensures that information that could impact risks and patient outcomes is communicated to relevant audiences (including those intended to use or receive healthcare from the device) and considers human-centered design that addresses the whole user experience.

Why it matters. Machine learning can be used to train artificial intelligence algorithms to improve performance at a task based on data, such as a smart sensor device that estimates the probability of a patient experiencing a heart attack, [FDA says in a recent article](#). Because of its use as a medical device, maintaining transparency of information around machine learning-enabled medical devices is vital for appropriate patient management.

How ECRI can help. ECRI named [Unintended Consequences of Technology Adoption](#) among the top 10 patient safety concerns in 2024.



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