

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.



August 27, 2024

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**](mailto:AmbulatoryCareRM@ecri.org).



New In-Person Course | Human Factors Engineering: Systems Thinking to Enhance Patient Safety

During this two-day live training, ECRI's human factors engineers will provide the foundational knowledge to understand and conduct proactive assessments and reactive near miss and adverse events assessments from a true systems perspective. Applications for continuing education credits have been submitted. [**register now**](#)

What's New?

- ECRI Blog: Advancing Safe and Equitable Healthcare: The New Patient Safety Structural Measure by CMS [**read now**](#)
- News release: ECRI Supports CMS Patient Safety Structural Measure [**read now**](#)

Patient Safety & Relations

How Does Workplace Psychological Safety Increase Reporting on Patient Deterioration?

What's the news. Positive leadership that challenges traditional professional hierarchies by embracing multidisciplinary teamwork, valuing the input of all stakeholders, and championing person-centered practice can increase staff willingness to raise concerns about patient deterioration, according to a [study in the August 2024 issue of the *Journal of Patient Safety*](#). Creating a psychologically safe working culture through effective feedback avenues, adequate staffing, and positive leadership that encourages speaking up is vital for early detection and appropriate response to patient deterioration, researchers say.

Why it matters. Psychological safety allows team members to feel their environment supports asking for help, trying new ways of doing things, and learning from mistakes.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Culture of Safety: An Overview](#) describes the elements of a safety culture and provides recommendations on how organizations can approach each element.

Michigan Resident Confirmed to Have Swine Flu Variant Despite No Exposure to Animals

What's the news. A Michigan resident has been diagnosed with a human case of influenza A H3N2 variant (also known as swine flu) despite no known exposure to swine or other animals, according to an [August 9, 2024, news release](#) from Michigan's Health and Human Services department.

Why it matters. This variant is different from the highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1) that has recently impacted dairy and poultry farms, and is often associated with pigs or swine, and may cause severe disease, even in healthy individuals.

How ECRI can help. The resource collection [Infection Control](#) lists ECRI's relevant guidance, self-assessments, education and training programs, and more.

CDC Updates Recommendations for IUD Use and Pain Management

What's the news. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated recommendations related to intrauterine device (IUD) placement medications, according to an [August 8, 2024, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*](#). The guidelines feature more patient-centered language amid public anecdotes citing severe pain related to insertion of IUDs, as detailed in related news coverage by [The Hill](#). The guidelines also address bleeding irregularities during implant use, testosterone use and risk for pregnancy, and self-administration of injectable contraception.

Why it matters. Health systems play a key role in family planning by providing access to safe, effective, equitable, and patient-centered contraception services. Contraceptive care should include contraceptive counseling, initiation of contraceptive use, and appropriate follow-up care—all of which are addressed in the guidelines with respect to IUDs.

How ECRI can help. The [Person-Centered Care](#) guidance article provides an overview of key approaches and concepts that may prove helpful when providing person-centered contraceptive care.

Legal & Regulatory

Navigating Private Civil Liability Concerns in a Post-Roe Abortion Care Landscape

What's the news. As the June 2022 U.S. Supreme Court decision on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*—which overturned *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*—continues to fracture the landscape of U.S. abortion law, healthcare organizations may find themselves also concerned about less commonly discussed private civil causes of action related to abortion procedures, according to an [article in the August 2024 issue](#) of *Inside Medical Liability*. A U.S. law firm has published a [50-state survey](#) listing the potential private civil causes of action related to abortion procedures.

Why it matters. Liability ramifications can be severe, including reputational harm, provider distress, financial ramifications, and provider loss of employment.

How ECRI can help. ECRI listed [Clinician Needs in Times of Uncertainty Surrounding Maternal-Fetal Medicine](#) among its top patient safety concerns in 2023.

DOJ Launched Corporate Whistleblower Awards Pilot Program

What's the news. The U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Criminal Division has launched a [Corporate Whistleblower Awards Pilot Program](#) to uncover and prosecute corporate crime, including crimes involving financial institutions, foreign and domestic corruption involving misconduct by companies, and healthcare fraud schemes involving private insurance plans. As part of the program, a whistleblower who provides original and truthful information about corporate misconduct that results in a successful forfeiture may be eligible for an award.

Why it matters. Fraud and abuse by healthcare providers and organizations bring the risk of potential significant financial, operational, and reputational costs. Most healthcare whistleblowers are current or former employees, and whistleblowers are afforded protection against retaliation under the False Claims Act, with significant penalties for violations by employers.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Creating and Maintaining an Effective Compliance and Ethics Program](#) discusses important provisions of fraud and abuse laws and can help organizations develop and implement compliance programs.

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