

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.



October 22, 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).



What's New?

- Risk Assessment Toolkit [**view**](#)
- ECRI Blog: Understanding "Human Factors" is Not "Factors Associated with Being Human" [**read now**](#)
- Webinar recording available: New Mammography Breast Density Regulations: What They Mean for Patients, Imaging Professionals, and Healthcare Facilities [**register and watch now**](#)

Upcoming Webinar!

Developing Trustworthy Evidence-Based Guidelines

Developing a trustworthy, evidence-based clinical practice guideline (CPG) requires an understanding of systematic review methods and adherence to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) *Standards for Trustworthy Guidelines*. Helping guideline developers produce sound, evidence-



based CPGs is a priority for the methodology experts at ECRI. Our Evidence-Based Practice Center offers guidance to enhance the knowledge and skills for improving your guideline- development process.

[Register Now!](#)

Join us for a [live virtual event featuring ECRI methodology experts](#) who will offer trusted strategies for developing systematic reviews of evidence and building guidelines that adhere to NAM Standards. This 90-minute session will cater to physicians, scientific researchers, and other professionals who work in the areas of clinical guideline development, comparative-effectiveness review, and patient-centered outcomes research.

Continuing Education Credits

- *This event has been approved for 1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 credits and 1.25 California State Nursing contact hours.*

Patient Safety & Relations

Extreme Temperature-Related Deaths Projected to Increase

What's the news. Extreme temperature-related deaths in the contiguous United States are projected to increase substantially by mid-21st century (i.e., 2036–2065) under various greenhouse-gas-emissions-increase scenarios. Certain populations—including older adults and non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic adults—are projected to disproportionately experience this increase, according to a [study published September 20, 2024, in JAMA Network Open](#).

Why it matters. The effects of climate change—such as prolonged episodes of extreme heat and cold—can have a major impact on health and well-being, especially for vulnerable populations and people who live in areas more susceptible to climate change effects. Healthcare organizations can use this information to inform their air-quality protection and risk-mitigation strategies.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Emergency Preparedness: Planning and Mitigation](#) discusses the planning and mitigation elements of a comprehensive emergency response plan.

Survey Findings Emphasize Healthcare Disparities for LGBTQ+ Patients

What's the news. The [National LGBTQ+ Women's Community Survey: Health Findings Brief](#) found that respondents had nearly double the rate of depression (51%) and anxiety (44%) as people in the general population, high levels of exposure to intimate partner violence, and extremely high rates of attempted suicide. Only 55% of respondents report being under the care of a primary care

physician compared to 77% of the general population, with BIPOC respondents (i.e., Black, Indigenous, and people of color) twice as likely to say they lacked access to quality healthcare as White respondents. Respondents listed sexism, racism, anti-LGBTQ+ prejudice, and bias due to weight as reasons they were targeted for discrimination or abuse.

Why it matters. For members of the LGBTQ community, accessing healthcare that respects their unique needs and identities is a critical aspect of their overall well-being. While significant strides have been made in recognizing and addressing the specific healthcare challenges faced by the LGBTQ population, improvements can still be made to ensure that healthcare settings are truly welcoming and understanding of diverse orientations and identities.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Delivering LGBTQ-Inclusive Healthcare](#) offers action recommendations to help organizations provide care for their LGBTQ communities.

Black Patients Less Likely to Have Documented End-of-Life Care

What's the news. During terminal hospitalizations, Black patients were less likely than non-Hispanic White patients to have documented end-of-life care (e.g., palliative care encounter, do-not-resuscitate status); this disparity appeared to be more pronounced in nonteaching hospitals than in teaching hospitals, according to a [study published in the September 2024 issue](#) of the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Why it matters. Understanding, detecting, and eliminating such disparities is an essential component of patient safety, and it is critical for ensuring patients receive equitable care congruent with their preferences in a respectful manner, especially at the ends of their lives.

How ECRI can help. Organizations can use the strategies provided in [Taking Action: Disparities in End-of-Life Care](#) to help identify and reduce disparities to improve patient safety and ensure patients receive equitable care.

Worker & Environmental Safety

Prolonged Emotional Impact of Medical Errors

What's the news. Over half of survey respondents that experienced a medical error occurring over a year prior reported prolonged (30.8%) or especially prolonged (20.4%) emotional impact, according to a [study published in the September 2024 issue](#) of *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*. Factors associated with prolonged emotional impact included female gender, low socioeconomic status, physical impact, no organizational disclosure, and no patient/family error reporting.

Why it matters. According to the study authors, organizational failure to communicate according to disclosure guidelines after patient-perceived errors may exacerbate harm, particularly for patients at risk of healthcare disparities.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Disclosing Unanticipated Adverse Outcomes](#) discusses challenges and strategies to address provider and patient attitudes regarding disclosure and legal and regulatory concerns.

Legal & Regulatory

DOJ Has Updated Evaluation of Corporate Compliance Programs Guidance

What's the news. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) updated its [Evaluation of Corporate Compliance Programs](#) guidance on September 23, 2024, with key additions related to risks associated with new and emerging technology, incentivizing and protecting whistleblowers, access to data and resources for compliance functions, incorporating lessons learned, and posttransaction compliance integration, as described in a [September 27, 2024, Skadden article](#).

Why it matters. This updated guidance serves as a valuable resource for organizations to evaluate how their compliance programs may be judged by the DOJ. An organization with an effective compliance program is more likely to receive a favorable resolution in an enforcement action.

How ECRI can help. The [Resource Collection: Laws, Regulations, and Compliance](#) provides guidance, self-assessments, and tools to help organizations comply with state and federal laws and regulations.



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