

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



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## **ECRI Welcomes The Just Culture Company** **Special Education Opportunities Available!**

ECRI is excited to welcome The Just Culture Company to its portfolio of solutions. The Just Culture Company is a leader in advisory services and educational programs to assist organizations foster fair and accountable organizational cultures. Their proprietary algorithm and proven framework help organizations prevent harm by shifting from reactive responses to proactive system design. To show our appreciation for being a valued client, and to offer you an opportunity to experience The Just Culture Company programs firsthand, now through February 8, all ECRI and ISMP clients will receive a 20% discount on Just Culture on-line training programs listed below. Please enter the discount code **ECRI+TJCC20** at checkout.

- [\*\*Just Culture Master Certification Course\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Just Culture Certification Course\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Just Culture for Managers and Influencers\*\*](#)
- [\*\*The Just Culture Conduct Course for Healthcare Managers and Influencers\*\*](#)

[\*\*Learn more about The Just Culture Company joining ECRI\*\*](#)

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## What's New?

- News: ECRI relocating global headquarters in the Philadelphia area [read more](#)
- Webinar recording available: The Science of Safety: Transforming Healthcare through Human Factors [register to view](#)

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## Patient Safety & Relations

### CDC Expands Recommendations for PCV among Adults 50 and Older

**What's the news.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommends a single dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) for adults age 50 and older who are PCV-naïve or who have unknown vaccination history, according to a [January 9, 2025, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#). For adults aged 19-64 with risk conditions for pneumococcal disease and all adults 65 and older, CDC's recommendation of a single dose of PCV is unchanged.

**Why it matters.** The updated PCV recommendations will help improve pneumococcal disease prevention in adults aged 50-64.

**How ECRI can help.** The guidance article [Vaccination Safety](#) reviews vaccination practices that support informed patients and vaccine safety.

### Florey Dementia Index Accurately Predicts MCI and AD Onset

**What's the news.** The Florey Dementia Index accurately predicted the age at onset of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and Alzheimer's dementia (AD) in older adults, with mean absolute errors of 2.78 years for predicting MCI onset and 1.48 for predicting AD onset, according to a [study published January 8, 2025, in JAMA Network Open](#).

**Why it matters.** Accurately predicting the age at onset of MCI and AD can help clinicians and their patients make informed decisions about dementia care.

**How ECRI can help.** The white paper [Diagnostic Excellence in Dementia Care](#) provides an overview of diagnostic errors among older adults, discusses barriers to timely and accurate dementia diagnosis, and offers systems safety strategies to improve diagnostic excellence in dementia care.

### Healthcare Facilities, Providers Work as Southern California Wildfires Rage

**What's the news.** Wildfires in Southern California have heavily impacted healthcare facilities and providers; at least one medical clinic burned down, hundreds of people in nursing homes and other care facilities were evacuated, and some providers lost their homes or have had to evacuate, according to a [January 10, 2025, article in KFF](#)

**Health News.** One doctor recounted receiving a call that the hospital he works at had become an emergency command center and was at risk of evacuation, meaning that he needed to help evaluate patients and prepare them for discharge, even as his own family was evacuating their home.

**Why it matters.** Natural disasters, such as wildfires, can cause chaos for healthcare providers and facilities. No facility is immune to a situation that may force an evacuation, and all organizations should be prepared to handle not only the potential event but also the serious and delicate operation of evacuating patients to safer facilities when needed.

**How ECRI can help:**

- [\*\*Emergency Preparedness: Planning and Mitigation\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Resource Collection: Emergency Preparedness and Response\*\*](#)
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## Legal & Regulatory

### **HHS Proposes HIPAA Security Rule Modifications to Improve Cybersecurity of ePHI**

**What's the news.** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is accepting comments on its proposal to modify the Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act to better protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of electronic protected health information (ePHI), according to the [\*\*Proposed Rule published January 6, 2025, in the Federal Register\*\*](#). The comment period ends March 7, 2025.

**Why it matters.** Cyberattacks can result in operational disruptions, data breaches, lost business or revenue, and poorer patient outcomes. Strengthening cybersecurity can help organizations prevent cyberattacks and effectively respond when such attacks occur.

**How ECRI can help.** The guidance article [\*\*Cybersecurity in Ambulatory Care\*\*](#) can help organizations understand their current approaches to cybersecurity and identify opportunities for improvement.

### **The Joint Commission Introduces 2025 Survey Process Enhancements**

**What's the news.** The Joint Commission is introducing enhancements to its survey processes in 2025, including a more user-friendly, redesigned survey report; an improved Survey Analysis for *Evaluating Risk (SAFER)* Matrix that uses short descriptors; and a modified for-cause survey process to help organizations better understand the process, according to a [\*\*January 8, 2025, newsletter update\*\*](#).

**Why it matters.** The enhancements aim to modernize tools, alleviate burden, and provide better communication tools for accredited healthcare organizations.

**How ECRI can help.** Access a variety of tools, best practices, and guidance in [Resource Collection: Laws, Regulations, and Compliance](#).



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