

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.



What's New?

- Smart Healthcare Safety Podcast: Preparing for Medication Emergencies in the Physician Office [listen now](#)
 - [Listen on Apple Podcasts](#)
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Patient Safety & Relations

Despite Severe Mental Health Symptoms, Many Providers Did Not Seek Care

What's the news. Among surveyed healthcare workers, 26% reported mental health symptoms at levels meeting diagnostic criteria during September 2022–May 2023; however, only 38% of these providers reported seeking care and 20% reported not needing care despite severe symptoms; primary barriers to care-seeking were difficulty getting time off work and concerns regarding confidentiality and cost, according to a [January 16, 2025, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#).

Why it matters. Gaps in mental healthcare-seeking may be reduced by organizational strategies to reduce stigma, address confidentiality concerns, and increase supervisor training.

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.

Annual Dementia Diagnoses Projected to Double by 2060

What's the news. The number of US adults who will develop dementia each year is projected to increase from approximately 514,000 in 2020 to approximately one million in 2060, according to a [brief communication published January 13, 2025, in *Nature Medicine*](#). The risk of a dementia diagnosis is especially pronounced for Black adults, as well as those with a certain genetic risk factor, with lifetime risk of dementia ranging from approximately 45% to 60% in these populations.

Why it matters. Dementia diagnosis is a multifaceted process that occurs within a complex system and that involves many people, meaning diagnosis may happen over multiple periods, in multiple settings, and with multiple providers. Diagnostic excellence relies on patient, family, and caregiver participation.

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.

Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Females Experience Discrimination in Healthcare

What's the news. Non-Hispanic Black and non-Hispanic other races were 285% and 207% more likely to experience discrimination when receiving healthcare, respectively, compared to non-Hispanic White patients, according to a [study published January 28, 2025, in the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*](#). Other factors associated with discrimination in healthcare included "being female, being an older individual, being a smoker, and living in poverty."

Why it matters. Discrimination and disparities in healthcare can lead to worse patient health outcomes. Addressing barriers to health equity can help improve quality of care for all patients.

How ECRI can help. Organizations can implement the strategies in [Taking Action: Strategies to Erase Race-Based Disparities in Healthcare Delivery](#) to reduce disparities and achieve equity in healthcare.

Legal & Regulatory

New Administration's Changes Affect Healthcare

What's the news. Many of President Donald Trump's first week orders affect healthcare, including a regulatory freeze that will halt progress on healthcare regulations; a pause on all Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) public communications and appearances; rescission of drug pricing models; withdrawal of the United States from the World Health Organization; termination of diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and programs; and removal of the HHS website on reproductive care, according to a [January 24, 2025, article from Fierce Healthcare](#).

Why it matters. Healthcare organizations must stay up to date with governmental changes under the new administration.

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

President Trump Rescinds Executive Order on AI Safeguards

What's the news. President Donald Trump has rescinded an executive order signed during the Biden administration that directed the US government to develop safeguards for the development of artificial intelligence (AI) programs, according to a [January 21, 2025, article from Fierce Biotech](#).

Why it matters. Challenges surrounding AI applications in healthcare include difficulty in obtaining high-quality data; bias; scaling and integration; lack of transparency; privacy issues; and uncertainty over liability. These challenges can reduce AI's effectiveness and compromise patient safety.

How ECRI can help. ECRI named [Unintended Consequences of Technology Adoption](#), including artificial intelligence technology, among its top 10 patient safety concerns in 2024.

Immigration Arrests May Now Take Place in Sensitive Areas, Including Hospitals

What's the news. As the U.S. Acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary has [issued a directive to Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#) to arrest people without legal citizenship status near "sensitive areas," including hospitals and healthcare facilities, states are providing varied guidance to healthcare facilities on how to address the immigration status of patients and prepare for possible interaction with law enforcement, according to a [January 26, 2025, article in MedPage Today](#).

Why it matters. Physicians have duties to refrain from unlawfully discriminating against patients and to safeguard the patient's health information. All healthcare organizations should ensure they understand related state and federal regulations and be prepared for the possibility of the presence of law enforcement who may have questions about patients' citizenship status or may arrest patients on the basis of their citizenship status.

How ECRI can help. The article [Physician/Patient Relationship: Legal Concerns](#) discusses the legal and ethical concerns and obligations between

physicians and patients and how organizations can ensure compliance.



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