

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



What's New?

- Mitigating Third-Party Risks in Healthcare: Protecting Patient Care and Data [**view**](#)
- Blog: Enhancing Recall Management: The Power of ECRI and Workday Integration [**view**](#)
- Blog: Enhancing Patient Safety through Systems Thinking in Healthcare [**view**](#)

Patient Safety & Relations

Hands-On Training Promotes Effective Precleaning of Reusable Medical Devices

What's the news. Hands-on training is an effective method to educate healthcare workers on precleaning of reusable medical devices that require processing. Although the interruption of the training program due to the COVID-19 pandemic did not affect baseline knowledge, participants' overall test scores significantly improved following completion of the annual training, according to a [**study published in the February 2025 issue of the American Journal of Infection Control**](#).

Why it matters. Reusable medical devices that are not properly cleaned prior to use may lead to pathogen transmission between patients. Ensuring appropriate sterilization and disinfection of such devices is critical to patient safety.

How ECRI can help. Healthcare organizations can use the recommendations in [Infection Prevention Recommendations for Outpatient Settings](#) to inform the policies and procedures developed to address the needs of their facilities, staff, and patient populations.

Strategies to Improve Screening and Intervention for Mistreatment of Older Adults

What's the news. To improve screening for mistreatment of older adults, specifically caregiver neglect, and subsequent interventions, it is important to define the phenomenon, develop a conceptual model to explain why it occurs, develop measurement strategies, and systematically examine existing literature, according to a [study published in the February 2025 issue of *The Gerontologist*](#).

Why it matters. Older adults are at higher risk of abuse and neglect, and such mistreatment can have serious health consequences. Developing effective screening and intervention programs can help identify and prevent mistreatment among this vulnerable population.

How ECRI can help. The [Resource Collection: Health Equity and Care of Vulnerable Populations](#) provides guidance, tools, and more to help organizations address challenges associated with caring for older adults, including elder abuse and neglect.

Community Training Program Increases Mental Health Discussions in Rural Communities

What's the news. A community training program is a feasible intervention to promote mental and emotional well-being for people living in rural communities, according to a [study published February 5, 2025, in the *Journal of Primary Care & Community Health*](#). The COMET (Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory) program provides guidance on how to discuss emotional and mental health and increases the likelihood that trainees will engage in these conversations when they are concerned about another person.

Why it matters. People in rural communities may lack mental health support resources from local and regional healthcare organizations, or they may lack other resources—such as transportation or insurance coverage—allowing them to successfully access existing resources.

How ECRI can help. The resource collections [Behavioral Health](#) and [Health Equity and Care of Vulnerable Populations](#) contain guidance, tools, and more on caring for patients' emotional and mental well-being.

Extreme Heat Poses Risk to Older Adults with Dementia

What's the news. Extreme heat may pose a growing threat to older adults living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD), with extrapolated data estimating that each day of extreme heat could contribute to over 5,000 added hospitalizations with ADRD nationwide; Black, Hispanic, and Asian patients are at higher risk than White patients, according to a [study published February 3, 2025, in *JAMA Internal Medicine*](#).

Why it matters. Counseling patients with dementia and their caregivers on the risks of extreme heat and implementing risk mitigation programs may help protect older adults.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Dementia Care in Aging Services](#) provides an overview of current best practices for dementia care and offers mitigation strategies to improve quality of care for those with dementia.

Self-Screening for Cervical Cancer More Comfortable for Women with Physical Disabilities

What's the news. Women with physical disabilities experience "accessibility barriers and clinician ableism that make speculum-based in-office cervical cancer screening difficult, leading some to delay or avoid screening"; however, participants described self-screening as more comfortable and convenient, according to a [study published January 29, 2025, in *JAMA Network Open*](#).

Why it matters. Cervical cancer screening is a crucial public health intervention, and offering self-screening options may help improve participation and reduce screening disparities for women with physical disabilities.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Cervical Cancer Screening](#) discusses important considerations to ensure effective cervical cancer screening so patients can receive timely and appropriate care.



ECRI and ISMP Headquarters, 5200 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462, 610.825.6000