

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).



Spotlight on Healthcare AI Governance

Although artificial intelligence (AI) has been present in healthcare for years, AI is being incorporated into an ever-growing array of healthcare applications, including imaging applications, clinical decision-making support tools, medical notes generation, and scheduling tools. AI applications have many potential benefits, including improved clinical outcomes, reduced costs, and reduced healthcare-worker burnout. However, common issues with AI technology—such as bias, transparency, and privacy and security concerns—can have unique and dangerous consequences in healthcare. ECRI listed [**Insufficient Governance of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare**](#) as a top 10 patient safety concern in 2025.

Related resources:

- [**Position Paper: Incorporating AI into Healthcare**](#)
- [**2025 Top 10 Health Technology Hazards: Risks with AI-Enabled Health Technologies**](#)
- [**Policy and Procedure Builder: Artificial Intelligence Governance Policy**](#) (download)

- [Blog: Ensuring Safe AI Use in Healthcare: A Governance Imperative](#)

What's New?

- Blog: Fighting the Viral Spread of Medical Misinformation: Empowering Patients through Health Literacy [read now](#)

Patient Safety & Relations

New Blood Test Can Help Diagnose AD and Determine Its Progression

What's the news. A newly developed blood test can aid in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and indicate how far the disease has progressed, according to a [March 31, 2025, news release from WashU Medicine](#). The blood test can identify plasma eMTBR-tau243, a biomarker that "may be useful for estimating the tauopathy load in AD, thereby improving the diagnostic evaluation of AD in clinical practice and monitoring the efficacy of tau-targeted therapies in clinical trials," according to a [study published March 31, 2025, in Nature Medicine](#).

Why it matters. This blood test provides a more accessible biomarker for AD diagnosis, prognosis, and tracking treatment effects, which may help improve the accuracy and effectiveness of diagnosis and treatment.

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.

Childhood Vaccine Coverage for Routine Shots Lags Behind Prepandemic Rates

What's the news. Coverage for some routine childhood immunizations remains below prepandemic levels, according to a [study published March 26, 2025, in Pediatrics](#). Researchers evaluated coverage for the recommended two doses of rotavirus (RV); diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (DTaP); and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) vaccines at 5 months and completion of recommended doses by 12 months. Lower vaccine uptake was associated with "having a caregiver whose primary language was not English or Spanish, non-Hispanic Black race, and Medicaid."

Why it matters. Vaccinations are an important tool for building immunity to prevent illness, disability, and death resulting from infectious diseases.

How ECRI can help. Physician practices that treat pediatric patients can use the strategies outlined in [Educate Parents: Childhood Vaccinations Are as Important as Ever](#) to implement outreach strategies to ensure that parents understand the critical importance of childhood vaccinations.

Many Adults without RSV Vaccination Unsure of Eligibility

What's the news. Analysis of over 6,700 hospitalized adults in 20 US states found that respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination was associated with "being 75 years or older and having pulmonary disease, immunocompromised status, low or moderate social vulnerability, and at least grade 12 education or General Educational Development," according to a [study published April 1, 2025, in JAMA Network Open](#). Among over 3,200 unvaccinated adults, 47.2% had not heard of RSV or were unsure, and 78.5% did not know if they were eligible for the RSV vaccine or thought they were not.

Why it matters. Understanding trends and sociodemographic differences in vaccine uptake can help providers effectively support RSV vaccination among eligible adults.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Vaccination Safety](#) discusses patient-facing issues related to vaccination, including preparation and administration, staff education and competencies, and communication with patients about vaccine safety.

Worker & Environmental

Teamwork Encourages Regular Follow-Up Among Chronically Ill Patients

What's the news. Teamwork between staff in primary care settings can encourage increased regular visits by adult patients with chronic health conditions, according to a [study published in the March/April 2025 issue of the Annals of Family Medicine](#). Clinics that emphasized teamwork, practiced a peaceful approach toward challenging patients, and had a flat organizational structure (versus a hierarchical structure) regarding personal relationships among staff members had more regular follow-up. Other strategies included having an established system to encourage follow-up, routine staff meetings, adaptive workflow, informal channels of communication with patients, consultation of social workers, and dealing with bureaucracy on behalf of patients (e.g., scheduling appointments, sending faxes).

Why it matters. Patients with complex needs—such as those with multiple chronic conditions—are prone to care fragmentation, higher healthcare utilization and costs, and worse health outcomes than other patients. These patients see higher numbers of

physicians across care settings, experience more transitions of care, are affected by more social determinants of health, and suffer more adverse events.

How ECRI can help. ECRI named [Consequences of Poor Care Coordination for Patients with Complex Medical Conditions](#) a top patient safety concern in 2023.

Legal & Regulatory

Who Will Be Held Liable for Medical Errors Associated with AI Use?

What's the news. As artificial intelligence (AI) technology is adopted in healthcare organizations, there is uncertainty regarding whether physicians will be held liable for AI-related medical errors because there are no regulations or legislation governing AI use. To protect patients and build defenses in case of a lawsuit, healthcare organizations should establish AI-use guidelines for staff and encourage physicians to maintain accurate documentation, according to an [April 1, 2025, article in Healthcare Brew](#).

Why it matters. Medical errors generated by AI could compromise patient safety and lead to misdiagnoses and inappropriate treatment decisions, which can cause injury or death.

How ECRI can help. ECRI named [Insufficient Governance of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare](#) among its top 10 patient safety concerns in 2025.



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