

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.



May 6, 2025

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.



We Want to Hear from You! **Hazards in Healthcare in 2026**

What do you think are the most pressing patient safety concerns and health technology hazards we'll face in 2026?

ECRI is seeking topic nominations for the 2026 Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns and Top 10 Health Technology Hazards. These annual reports highlight specific issues that can lead to preventable patient harm and provide actionable recommendations for improvement.

As we look ahead to 2026, we want to hear from you – what issues do you think we should feature next year?

Submit your nominations by May 30, 2025

Spotlight on Medical Misinformation

Medical misinformation is health information that is false, inaccurate, or misleading, based on current available evidence. If viral misinformation is the disease, health literacy is part of the cure. ECRI included [**The Wide Availability and Viral Spread of Medical Misinformation: Empowering Patients through Health Literacy**](#) among its top 10 patient safety concerns in 2025.

Related resources:

- [Health Literacy: Handout for In-Person Communication \(download\)](#)
- [Blog: Fighting the Viral Spread of Medical Misinformation: Empowering Patients through Health Literacy](#)
- [Webinar recording: Activating Patients as Partners in Safety Learning Collaborative: Informational Session](#)



What's New?

- Blog: Trustworthy Clinical Practice Guidelines Begin with Medical Research Librarians [read now](#)

—

Patient Safety & Relations

Percentage of Publicly Insured Children Diagnosed with Mental Health Disorders Increased 2010 to 2019

What's the news. An observational study using claims data from 22 states found that the percentage of publicly insured children who were diagnosed with any mental health or neurodevelopmental disorder increased from 10.7% in 2010 to 16.5% in 2019, according to a [study published April 24, 2025, in JAMA](#). The largest increases were observed for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, trauma- and stressor-related disorders, anxiety disorders, autism spectrum disorders, depressive disorders, and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

Why it matters. Children who live in poverty are at increased risk of mental health and neurodevelopmental disorders, and it is important that they have access to appropriate mental health services.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Overview of Pediatric Risk Management](#) discusses strategies to ensure safe and effective care of pediatric patients.

Rate of Pregnancy-Related Mortality Increased from 2018 to 2022

What's the news. Nearly 6,300 pregnancy-related deaths occurred from 2018 to 2022, with the age-standardized annual and aggregated rate (ASR) of pregnancy-related mortality increasing by 27.7% from 25.3 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018 to 32.6 deaths in 2022, according to a [study published April 9, 2025, in JAMA Network Open](#). American Indian and Alaska Native women combined have the highest ASR (106.3), followed by non-Hispanic Black women (76.9).

Why it matters. Analysis of pregnancy-related deaths can help identify opportunities to reduce preventable deaths, especially among vulnerable populations.

How ECRI can help. ECRI named [Barriers to Access Maternal and Perinatal Care](#) among its top 10 patient safety concerns in 2024.

800 Measles Cases Reported This Year, Most Associated with Outbreaks and Low Vaccination Coverage

What's the news. From January 1 to April 17, 2025, there have been 800 measles cases reported, the second highest annual case count in 25 years; 82% of these cases were "associated with an ongoing outbreak in close-knit communities with low vaccination coverage in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas," according to the [April 24, 2025, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#). Approximately half of adults are at least "somewhat worried" about measles outbreaks, and 83% of adults say they are "very" or "somewhat confident" that the measles, mumps, rubella vaccines are safe; however, confidence in the safety of these vaccines is lower among Republican and Republican-leaning parents, according to an [April 23, 2025, article in KFF](#).

Why it matters. Measles cases and outbreaks have been increasing in recent years, emphasizing the importance of encouraging patients to get the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, especially for children.

How ECRI can help. ECRI named [Vaccine Coverage Gaps and Errors](#) among its top 10 patient safety concerns in 2022.

Conversation Tool Helps Improve Communication with Older Adults with Cognitive Impairment

What's the news. Use of the "About Me" Care Card, a conversation tool designed to enhance communication between clinicians and older adults with cognitive impairment, "(1) allowed time to elicit what matters most to patients, (2) created space for personalized care conversations, (3) opened an examination of social care needs, and (4) moderated emotional relationships between families and individuals," according to a [study published in the March/April 2025 issue of the *Annals of Family Medicine*](#).

Why it matters. Communication between providers and their patients is the crux of providing safe, quality medical care.

How ECRI can help. Healthcare organizations can use the strategies in [Taking Action: Effective Provider-Patient Communication](#) to help achieve safe and effective communication between providers and patients.

T2DM Patients Receiving a CMR Experienced Improved Medication Adherence

What's the news. Older adult patients with type 2 diabetes (T2DM) who received a comprehensive medication review (CMR) experienced improved oral antidiabetic drug adherence and statin utilization compared to nonrecipients, demonstrating the potential benefits of collaboration with pharmacists on improving diabetes care, according to a [study published April 12, 2025, in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*](#).

Why it matters. Medication adherence is an important component of ensuring effective patient care. Increasing CMRs among patients with T2DM may help improve diabetes management.

How ECRI can help. The [Resource Collection: Medication Safety](#) provides guidance, tools, and more to help organizations implement effective strategies to improve medication safety.

SSIs Peak in Warmer Months, Particularly Between July and August

What's the news. Surgical site infections (SSIs) occur more frequently in the warmer months of the year, mostly between the months of July and August but not distinctly in July, as other studies have previously described, according to a [study published in the May 2025 issue of the *American Journal of Infection Control*](#). Overall, the highest rates of SSIs occurred from the end of May to the beginning of September.

Why it matters. SSIs may result in serious complications or death for the patient. In addition, practicing strict aseptic technique protects staff from contact with blood, body fluids, and other potentially infectious material.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Infection Prevention and Control](#) recommends actions to mitigate infection risk in ambulatory surgery.



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