

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.



Spotlight on Disability Pride Month

Disability Pride Month, observed annually in July, is a "time to recognize the history, achievements, experiences, and struggles of people with disabilities ... [and affirm] that disability is a natural and valuable part of human diversity—not a deficit or condition to be fixed," [according to The Arc](#), a US organization serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. ECRI's resources on caring for people with disabilities, as well as laws and regulations on employing people with disabilities, include guidance, user Q&As, and more.

What's New?

- Is Your Organization Still Punishing Human Error? [read now](#)
- Analysis of punitive workplace culture across industries signals improvements are still needed for healthcare workers [read now](#)

Patient Safety & Relations

Recent Report Examines Health AI Tools That Fall Outside FDA Oversight

What's the news. The 2025 report [Oversight Beyond the FDA: Understanding the Regulation of Health AI Tools](#) examines such tools that fall outside of FDA oversight (e.g., administrative systems, clinical decision support software, wellness apps) and "outlines how these technologies function, how they fit within existing

oversight structures, and where regulatory responsibilities may be unclear or overlapping."

Why it matters. 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. It is essential that organizations understand current AI regulations and oversight.

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

USPSTF Updates Recommendations on Screening for IPV Violence, Caregiver Abuse

What's the news. Screening for intimate partner violence (IPV) among reproductive-age women, including pregnant and postpartum patients, and providing or referring those patients who screen positive to multicomponent interventions has a moderate net benefit and continues to be recommended, according to the [US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement](#), published June 24, 2025, in *JAMA*. However, the panel took a step back from its 2018 recommendation advising to screen for caregiver abuse and neglect in older or vulnerable adults, stating that the current evidence is insufficient to assess the benefits and harms. According to the [related evidence report](#), no studies were found in the included data sources that evaluated screening or interventions for caregiver abuse among older or vulnerable adults.

Why it matters. Healthcare professionals are uniquely positioned to identify abuse and its consequences. IPV is prevalent enough that most providers can expect to encounter patients who are struggling with the issue, or who have done so in the past. Older adults are at risk for abuse and neglect. Many have chronic diseases that limit physical functioning, making them dependent on others for the most basic daily tasks, such as dressing, eating, and toileting.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Screening for Intimate Partner Violence](#) describes some key at-risk groups and factors that make them vulnerable.

Influenza Vaccination During Pregnancy Tied to Significantly Reduced Infant Influenza

What's the news. Influenza vaccination during pregnancy is associated with a 44.4% reduction in infant influenza, and the reduction was greater when vaccination occurred during the second or third trimester (51.5% and 59.3%, respectively) compared to the first trimester (11.3%), according to a [study published June 26, 2025, in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*](#).

Why it matters. Vaccinations are an important tool for building immunity to prevent illness, disability, and death resulting from infectious diseases. Pregnant people and infants are at increased risk for poor outcomes due to influenza infection. Infants younger than six months are not eligible to receive the influenza vaccine, and maternal vaccination can offer them some protection.

How ECRI can help. The article [Vaccination Safety](#) covers vaccine preparation and administration, vaccine storage and handling, vaccine event reporting, staff education and competencies, and communication with patients and parents about vaccine safety.

Neonatal Mortality Rates Decline Overall, but Certain Causes Persist

What's the news. Although overall neonatal mortality in the United States has decreased, certain disparities in specific causes of death persist, according to a [research letter published June 23, 2025, in *JAMA Pediatrics*](#). Disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight; maternal pregnancy complications; and complications of placenta, cord, and membranes were the top three causes of neonatal death from 1999 to 2022.

Why it matters. Neonatal mortality rates can represent missed perinatal care, perhaps due to care missed by providers or barriers that patients face in accessing perinatal care. Each of the top causes represents different opportunities for healthcare organizations to ensure their perinatal care is prepared to meet patient needs.

How ECRI can help. The [Resource Collection: Obstetric and Maternal Health and Safety](#) lists guidance, sample policies and tools, education and training, and more.

Legal & Regulatory

Proposed HIPAA Changes Would Require Major Investment in Cybersecurity

What's the news. Anticipated changes to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in 2025 and beyond may significantly impact healthcare operations and require major investment in cybersecurity, according to a [June 27, 2025, article in *The HIPAA Journal*](#). The article discusses both implemented and proposed new HIPAA regulations, including those related to strengthened privacy for reproductive healthcare.

Why it matters. Ensuring compliance with all portions of HIPAA must be a top priority for all healthcare organizations. HIPAA regulations ensure important protections for patients, and violations can result in patient harm as well as significant monetary settlements and reputational damage.

How ECRI can help. Organizations can use the article [Cybersecurity in Ambulatory Care](#), along with key resources, to better understand their organization's current approaches and identify opportunities for improvement.

ECRI and ISMP Headquarters, 3959 Welsh Road, #364, Willow Grove, PA 19090, 610.825.6000