

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.



ECRI Strategic Insights for Ambulatory Care

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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?

- ECRI experts present on safe AI in patient care, maternal care hazards, and human factors engineering at ASHRM 2025 [read now](#)

Patient Safety & Relations

Food Insecurity Associated with Worse Patient-Provider Communication, Higher Risks of Dementia

What's the news. Food-insecure adults experienced worse patient-provider communication than food-secure adults, with 9% and 56% of food-insecure adults reporting low and moderate communication, respectively, compared with 4.3% and 50.7% of food-secure adults, according to a study published in the [October 2025 issue of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*](#). Food-insecure adults also experienced "lower access to care, higher emergency departments visits, and greater financial burdens, particularly among adults with low communication." In addition, a [research letter published September 24, 2025, in *JAMA Network*](#)

Open found that low food security was associated with higher risks of dementia, cognitive impairment with no dementia, and cognitive impairment with dementia.

Why it matters. Study findings indicate that food-insecure patients may have unique and complex healthcare needs. Identifying and addressing barriers to care access or effective communication can improve care for this patient population.

How ECRI can help. Healthcare organizations can use the strategies provided in [Taking Action: Strategies to Advance Health Equity](#) to identify and address disparities their patients may face.

Legal & Regulatory

Healthcare Cybersecurity Report Finds Most Organizations Victims of Cyberattack

What's the news. The [2025 Ponemon Healthcare Cybersecurity Report](#) found that 93% of healthcare organizations endured an average of 43 cyberattacks in the past 12 months, with 72% reporting disruptions to patient care, and the average total cost of the most expensive cyberattack was \$3.9 million. Ninety-six percent of organizations had at least 2 data loss or exfiltration events that involved sensitive data over the past 2 years, with leading causes identified as employee noncompliance with organizational policies (35%), privilege access abuse (25%), and employees emailing sensitive data to the wrong recipient (25%).

Why it matters. Cyberattacks can result in operational disruptions, patient harm, data breaches, reputational damage, and lost revenue. Healthcare organizations must implement strategies to prevent and respond to cyberattacks.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Cybersecurity in Ambulatory Care](#) can help organizations understand their current approaches to cybersecurity and identify opportunities for improvement.

JAMA Report on AI Discusses Potential Risks and Benefits

What's the news. The implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) tools—including clinical, patient-facing, and administrative tools—into healthcare comes with many potential benefits and risks that "will depend heavily on the creation of an ecosystem capable of rapid, efficient, robust, and generalizable knowledge about the consequences of these tools on health," according to the [JAMA Summit Report on Artificial Intelligence published October 13, 2025](#). The lack of federal regulations makes AI use especially challenging, and standards for the responsible use and evaluation of such tools will need to consider safety, compliance, and effectiveness.

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.

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

AI Healthcare Applications Are Outpacing the Legal Frameworks to Determine Liability

What's the news. Adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) is evolving faster than legal frameworks related to negligence and malpractice; AI may even reshape standards of care, according to an [October 7, 2025, article in *Medical Economics*](#). Experts advise physicians to keep up with their specialty's advocacy societies and actions taken by major health systems for guidance on when an AI tool's use is expected rather than optional.

Why it matters. Failure to develop system-wide governance to evaluate, implement, oversee, and monitor new and current AI applications may increase healthcare organizations' liability risks. However, it can be challenging to establish policies that can adapt to rapidly changing AI technology.

How ECRI can help. Healthcare organizations can use the strategies provided in [ECRI Frequently Asked Questions: Managing the Risks of AI-Enabled Health Technologies](#).

Solar Energy Could Reduce Significant Emissions from MRI and CT Imaging

What's the news. Switching to a renewable energy source, specifically solar photovoltaic electricity, could reduce emissions by 70% for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and 40% for computed tomography (CT) imaging, according to a study published online on [October 4, 2025, in the *Journal of the American College of Radiology*](#). A life cycle assessment of MRI and CT imaging at a US academic medical center found that these services generate approximately 221 and 108 tons of CO₂e per year, respectively, with energy consumption, disposable supplies, capital equipment production, and linens contributing to emissions.

Why it matters. Healthcare organizations are responsible for significant negative effects on the environment, including waste and greenhouse gas emissions. Taking advantage of renewable resources may have a positive effect on the environment and enhance efficiency and lower operational costs in the process.

How ECRI can help. Healthcare organizations can use the strategies in [Taking Action: Strategies to Achieve Environmental Sustainability](#) to help achieve environmental sustainability in their facility.



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