

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 Yvette Ervin, Vice President, CAPIC Risk Management, at YErvin@CAPphysicians.com.



Strategic Insights for Ambulatory Care

November 18, 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.



Spotlight on Staffing

Staffing profoundly influences risk, quality, and safety. ECRI's resources are here to help you manage risk and provide high-quality care.

- [Employee Health and Wellness](#)
- [Burnout in Healthcare Workers: The Elephant in the Room](#)
- [Fatigue in Healthcare Workers](#)
- [Improving Healthcare Worker Well-Being](#)
- [Supporting Resilience in Healthcare Workers](#)
- [Human Resources](#)



What's New?

- [Creating a Culture of Safety in Healthcare: What It Really Takes](#) [read now](#)
-

Patient Safety & Relations

Most Americans Support Giving Children MMR Vaccine, But Still Cite Confusion

What's the news. Eighty-two percent of Americans surveyed in August 2025 support giving children the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, but this number has declined from 90% in November 2024, according to an [October 30, 2025, article by the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center](#). Most Americans surveyed (70%) believe that vaccines approved for use in the United States are safe, but the public is confused about whether the top US health official, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr, recommends that children be vaccinated against measles.

Why it matters. Measles cases and outbreaks have been increasing in recent years, emphasizing the importance of the MMR vaccine, especially for children.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Vaccination Safety](#) reviews vaccination practices that support informed patients and vaccine safety.

More Than Half of Antibiotic Prescriptions in Primary Care Are Inappropriate

What's the news. A global meta-analysis of antibiotic prescribing in primary care found that overall prevalence of antibiotic prescribing was 42.1%, with no significant changes over the past 20 years, and the prevalence of inappropriate antibiotic prescriptions was 57.6%, according to a [study published in the November 2025 issue of the American Journal of Infection Control](#). There was a higher prevalence of antibiotic prescribing in low- and middle-income countries, and lower prevalence among patients with higher education levels.

Why it matters. Antibiotic prescribing contributes to antimicrobial resistance, emphasizing the importance of reducing inappropriate antibiotic prescribing and establishing effective antimicrobial stewardship strategies.

How ECRI can help. ECRI named [Antimicrobial Stewardship](#) among the top 10 patient safety concerns in 2020.

Losing ACA Tax Credits Could Cause Healthcare Job Losses Nationwide, Research Says

What's the news. Healthcare organizations could be forced to reduce workforces by about 154,00 jobs if the US Congress takes no action to extend premium tax credits that aid people who purchase their health insurance on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces, according to a recent issue brief by a [US nonprofit focused on healthcare research and policy](#). This issue has been at the center of ongoing congressional debate during the current government shutdown. Texas (83,400), Florida (57,500), and Georgia (33,600) would stand to lose the most jobs overall, but all states would face job losses, reduced local tax revenue, and lower gross domestic product.

Why it matters. Healthcare staffing shortages are a significant, chronic problem in ambulatory care. Further reducing the healthcare workforce would have a negative impact, as reduced staffing is linked to patient care issues, operational challenges, and staff burnout and fatigue.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Supporting Resilience in Healthcare Workers](#) discusses how to help workers build resilience under stress—a coping skill that prevents burnout in demanding circumstances—which is critically important for healthcare organizations to cultivate and safeguard among their providers and other staff members.

Antibiotics Still Prescribed in Two-Thirds of UTI Visits Without UTI-Specific Symptoms

What's the news. Providers prescribed antibiotics in two-thirds of visits for urinary tract infections (UTI) when the patient did not have UTI-specific symptoms, and in 58% of visits when a UTI was unlikely, according to a [study in the November 2025 issue of the *American Journal of Infection Control*](#). Based on provider documentation of US Department of Veterans Affairs patients at an outpatient clinic from 2019 to 2022, researchers conclude that most antibiotic prescriptions given before the patient's visit or more than 9 days after the visit were inappropriate.

Why it matters. As antimicrobial resistance increases, it limits the number of treatment options for affected patients and endangers the public at large.

How ECRI can help. ECRI named [Antimicrobial Stewardship](#) among the top 10 patient safety concerns in 2020.

Ongoing Evidence Shows Broad Safety of COVID, RSV, Influenza Vaccines

What's the news. Changes to federal US vaccine-advisory processes have recently disrupted immunization guidance; however, ongoing peer-reviewed evidence continues to support the safety and efficacy of immunizations against COVID-19, RSV, and influenza during the 2025-2026 season, according to a [systematic review published October 29, 2025, in the *New England Journal of Medicine*](#). Using only data published since the most recent ACIP Evidence-to-Recommendations reviews in 2023-2024, researchers found, for example, that COVID-19 vaccines' effectiveness against hospitalization ranged from 46% to 68%, representing substantial reductions in severe outcomes at the population level.

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. The guidance article [Vaccination Safety](#) reviews vaccination practices that support informed patients and vaccine safety.



