

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.



ECRI

Strategic Insights for Ambulatory Care

December 2, 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 Falls Mitigation and Management

Despite widespread fall prevention, mitigation, and management programs, falls and fall-related injuries and deaths remain an ongoing challenge across care settings. Falls continue to be the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injury for older adults, the leading cause for liability claims among senior care organizations, and as of the end of 2023, the number one sentinel event reported to Joint Commission—a ranking held since 2019.

Aside from the significant physical and mental tolls falls have on patients, they are also costly. Overall, falls are estimated to cost the US health system \$80 billion a year. The average total cost of a single inpatient fall has been estimated to be more than \$62,000.

ECRI resources include:

- [Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls in the Office Setting](#)
- [Ask ECRI: Patient Refusal of Post-Operative Fall Precautions](#)
- [Safe Patient Discharge from Ambulatory Surgery](#)



What's New?

- Challenges Facing Rural Healthcare in the Current Policy Landscape [read now](#)
- Honoring Veterans Through Compassionate Care [read now](#)

Patient Safety & Relations

US Primary Care Physicians are Among Most Likely to Experience Burnout

What's the news. Primary care physicians (PCPs) in the United States are more likely to experience burnout than in almost all other countries, according to [research published November 20, 2025](#). For the more than 40% of PCPs in the United States who report burnout, administrative burden—such as patient documentation and insurance filing—is a primary cause.

Why it matters. Poor healthcare worker well-being has many patient risk, safety, and quality implications. Higher rates of burnout have been associated with increased medical errors and patient mortality, and in turn, a higher likelihood of malpractice claims.

How ECRI can help. The article [Burnout in Healthcare Workers: The Elephant in the Room](#) discusses the risk management implications of staff burnout and how organizations can take action.

Act Early to Implement AI Operating Plan, Frameworks for Responsible Use

What's the news. Healthcare organizations should establish an artificial intelligence (AI) operating action plan as AI is increasingly incorporated into operational frameworks, according to a [November 13, 2025, article by a national law firm](#). Additional recommendations include implementing real-world performance monitoring and training of clinical and operations staff. As federal regulations regarding AI are still developing, prospective adoption of voluntary frameworks around the responsible

use of AI is likely to prove beneficial, as they may in turn become the basis of future federal standards.

Why it matters. The benefits of prospective adoption of responsible AI frameworks aside, establishing best policies and procedures will mitigate related risks, ultimately improving organizational efficiency and patient safety.

How ECRI can help. ECRI's resource hub [Artificial Intelligence Insights for Healthcare and Government Leaders](#) centralizes many of our publicly available recommendations.

One in Seven Children in Households Receiving Benefits Still Experience Food Insecurity

What's the news. Approximately one in seven children in households receiving WIC or SNAP benefits still experienced food insecurity; older children, those with public or no insurance, those from lower-income households, and children with special healthcare needs had higher odds of unresolved food insecurity, according to a [research brief published November 7, 2025, in *Pediatrics*](#).

Why it matters. Providers should screen for food insecurity, especially among vulnerable populations, so assistance can be provided as needed.

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

Offering Two or More Alternative Treatments May Improve Physician Decision-Making

What's the news. Offering primary care physicians two or more appropriate treatment alternatives through decision-support alerts increased the odds that they would choose an alternative over the current care plan (62%) compared with those offered only one alternative (44%), "indicating that presenting multiple alternatives may improve clinical decision-making and reduce unwarranted variation in health care," according to a [study published November 13, 2025, in *JAMA Network Open*](#).

Why it matters. Study findings suggest that decision-support alerts may be more effective when they offer multiple appropriate alternatives, helping clinicians choose the best treatment plan for patients.

How ECRI can help. The article [Implementation and Use of Clinical Decision Support](#) discusses how to design systems judiciously, support users, and monitor effectiveness.

Legal & Regulatory

Consultant Pathologist Suspended Following Misconduct

What's the news. A consultant pathologist was suspended from the UK medical register for 1 year after committing an act of sexual misconduct at a work party and sending inappropriate messages to a colleague, according to a [news article published November 11, 2025, on thebmj](#).

Why it matters. Inappropriate and disruptive behavior impacts the workplace environment, compromising a culture of safety and even affecting patient safety and quality care. Such behavior must be reported and addressed.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article [Disruptive Practitioner Behavior](#) covers types of disruptive behavior, its potential consequences for healthcare organizations, and interventions organizations can employ to decrease or mitigate disruptive behavior.



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