

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

May 19, 2026

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?

- Test Tracking and Follow-Up **read now**
- Ask ECRI: Determining "High-Risk" Referrals **read now**

Spotlight on Diagnosis

For an ambulatory care facility managing a high volume of patients across diverse conditions, accurate and timely diagnosis is critical to preventing missed or delayed diagnoses that can result in patient harm, liability exposure, and downstream care failures. ECRI's resources are here to help your organization support the complete diagnostic process.

- **Case Scenario: Missed and Delayed Diagnoses in the Physician Office**
- **Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns 2026: Navigating the AI Diagnostic Dilemma**
- **Resource Collection: Diagnosis: Safety and Screening**

- **Resource Collection: Diagnosis: Test, Referral, and Hospitalization Tracking**
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In the News

AMA Creates Policy Framework to Combat AI Deepfake Doctors

What's the news. The American Medical Association (AMA) Center for Digital Health has created a policy framework to help lawmakers and industry leaders combat the threat of unauthorized AI-generated deepfake "doctors," according to a **May 11, 2026, AMA article**.

Why it matters. Deepfake "doctors" can expose patients to unproven or incorrect advice that can seriously harm patients and damage public trust in healthcare.

How ECRI can help. ECRI named **Insufficient Governance of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare** a top patient safety concern in 2025.

- **Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns 2025: Insufficient Governance of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare**

HHS Updates Final Rule on Section 504, Digital Accessibility Standards

What's the news. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a Final Rule updating Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, mandating all facilities, programs, or activities with 15 or more employees that receive HHS funding to comply with new digital accessibility standards, according to a **May 11, 2026, article** by a national law firm.

Why it matters. Noncompliance exposes organizations to loss of federal funding, HHS Office for Civil Rights enforcement, and lawsuits, making digital accessibility a liability risk as well as an IT concern.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article **Creating and Maintaining an Effective Compliance and Ethics Program** can assist organizations with the development and maintenance of an effective compliance and ethics program to help promote high-quality care and adhere to all applicable laws and regulations.

- **Creating and Maintaining an Effective Compliance and Ethics Program**

CDC: Cruise Ship Hantavirus Outbreak Poses Low Risk to General Public

What's the news. Officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated that the overall risk to the general public from the hantavirus outbreak linked to the MV Hondius cruise ship remains low, as the virus is a long-studied pathogen with rare person-to-person transmission, and 100 CDC personnel are actively monitoring the ship's passengers, according to a **May 13, 2026, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy article**.

Why it matters. For healthcare facilities that could provide care for patients with viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHFs), rigorous infection prevention and control efforts as part of emergency preparedness plan implementation can support patient care while helping to prevent VHF transmission.

How ECRI can help. The article **Healthcare Facility Preparedness for Ebola and Other Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Outbreaks** discusses the infection prevention and control precautions that can support patient care while preventing VHF transmission.

- **Healthcare Facility Preparedness for Ebola and Other Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Outbreaks**

Pediatric Influenza Vaccination Effective Against Hospitalization, but Uptake Lags

What's the news. From 2021 to 2024, pediatric influenza vaccination was 34% to 60% effective against influenza-associated hospitalization and outpatients visits, according to a **study published in the May 2026 issue of *Pediatrics***. However, vaccination uptake was low, with only 44% to 51% of children receiving the vaccine, depending on the year.

Why it matters. Vaccinations are an important tool for building immunity to prevent illness, disability, and death resulting from infectious diseases. But as with any medication, errors can occur during the prescribing, preparation, handling, storage, or administration of vaccines.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article **Vaccination Safety** reviews vaccination practices that support informed patients and vaccine safety.

- **Vaccination Safety**
- **Resource Collection: Vaccine and Immunization**

US Physician Assistants Surpass 200K in 2025, with Over 20% in Primary Care

What's the news. The number of US board-certified physician assistants (PAs) surpassed 200,000 for the first time in 2025, with 21.4% of PAs practicing in primary care, according to a **2026 report from a US PA certifying organization**.

Why it matters. PAs are vital parts of the primary care workforce whose scope of practice is largely dictated by state laws and regulations, making comprehensive knowledge of statutes and regulations for each state an essential step in successfully employing PAs.

How ECRI can help. The guidance article **Scope of Practice Laws for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants** provides an overview of state laws that dictate nonphysician practitioner scope of practice; resources to assist risk managers, physicians, and nonphysician practitioners in their efforts to stay abreast of regulatory requirements; and practical strategies to promote communication and patient safety among physicians and nonphysician practitioners while decreasing risk and potential for liability.

- **Scope of Practice Laws for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants**

Nearly Half of Clinicians Use AI Tool for Work, with Many Using Frequently or Always

What's the news. Nearly half of clinicians use an AI tool for work purposes, of whom 34% use clinical-specific AI tools either frequently or always, according to the **Clinician of the Future 2026** Elsevier report. Eighty percent of clinicians believe that AI will be a critical assistant within 5 to 10 years, yet just over half of clinicians (56%) expect AI will improve patient outcomes.

Why it matters. Oversight of AI use within an organization is vital to maintaining patient safety and avoiding major liability risks.

How ECRI can help. ECRI has named AI-related concerns as top patient safety or health technology hazards in 2026, including **Navigating the AI Diagnostic Dilemma** and **The Misuse of AI Chatbots in Healthcare**.

- **Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns 2026: Navigating the AI Diagnostic Dilemma**
 - **2026 Top 10 Health Technology Hazards: The Misuse of AI Chatbots in Healthcare**
 - **Ethical Use of AI in Healthcare**
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