



Risk Management SNAPSHOT

Current issues and hot topics
in healthcare risk management.



ECRI's Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns 2025: A Critical Tool for Healthcare Providers across the Continuum

ECRI's Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns identifies critical safety risks, offering insight and guidance for healthcare systems to improve care and minimize harm. The 2025 edition highlights urgent safety issues amid the evolving healthcare landscape, emphasizing the need for organizations to promptly address these risks.

ECRI outlines on their blog the benefits and how organizations should use their top 10 report. There is also a link to get your copy of the report to help your organization. The resource and blog post can be found here [ECRI's Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns 2025](#).



*This article falls under **Strategic** and **Clinical/Patient Safety** in the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) risk domains.*

Strategic

Risks associated with the focus and direction of the organization. Because the rapid pace of change can create unpredictability, risks included within the strategic domain are associated with brand, reputation, competition or failure to adapt to changing times (such as health reform or shifting customer priorities). Managed care relationships/partnerships, conflict of interest, marketing and sales, media relations, mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures, affiliations and other business arrangements, contract administration, and advertising are other areas generally considered as potential strategic risks.

Clinical/Patient Safety

Risks associated with the delivery of care to patients, residents and other health care customers. Clinical risks include failure to follow evidence-based practice, medication errors, hospital acquired conditions (HAC), serious safety events (SSE), health care equity, opportunities to improve safety within the care environments, and others.

Nursing Home Sales Lead to More Residents, Fewer Direct Care Staff



What are your staffing levels looking like? Have they decreased? Are they affecting resident care? Could this be the result of a recent sale or merger of your organization?

Studies have found that the number of nursing homes changing, either through sales or mergers, has a direct impact on resident care staffing levels.

The article from McKnight's Long-Term Care News can be found here [Nursing home sales lead to more patients, less direct care staff](#).

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Human Capital

This domain refers to the organization's workforce. Included are risks associated with employee selection, retention, turnover, staffing, absenteeism, on-the-job work-related injuries (workers' compensation), work schedules and fatigue, productivity, compensation, succession planning and labor unionization activity. Human capital associated risks may cover recruitment, diversity, retention, and termination of members of the medical and allied health staff

Prescription Stimulant Misuse Raising Concern

Adults with a diagnosis of ADHD are often prescribed stimulants such as amphetamines and methylphenidate. While these patients often experience significant life improvements, with an increase in prescribing comes an increased potential for misuse/abuse. Prescribers and other care providers need to be aware of this concern and provide appropriate screening and treatment for patients.



A recent study published in [JAMA Psychiatry](#) raises concern about increasing prescription stimulant use disorder (PSUD).

[Medscape](#) provides a review of the study in which the study authors conclude that "regardless of prescription stimulant misuse status, screening for and treating PSUD are needed for US adults aged 18 to 64 years using prescription stimulants, especially those receiving prescription amphetamines."

For more information about medication safety in the office practice, review our practice tip [Medication Safety in the Office Practice](#).

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New and Revised TJC Workplace Violence Prevention Requirements

The Joint Commission has revised its workplace violence requirements, which will be effective July 1st, 2025, for multiple care settings. “Workplace violence poses a significant occupational hazard for health care workers. However, the prevalence may be underestimated due to underreporting, as incidents are often perceived as minor. To address the safety concerns that affect patients, staff, and visitors, The Joint Commission is implementing accreditation requirements for workplace violence prevention.”

New standards have been issued for all Joint Commission-accredited assisted living communities, nursing care centers, and office-based surgery practices, as well as ambulatory health care organizations and laboratories. The new and revised requirements also provide a framework to assist in developing prevention strategies.

The standards and further information on the revised standards and other Joint Commission updates can be found here: [jointcommission.org/standards/prepublication](https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/prepublication).

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Note: For healthcare organizations that are not TJC accredited, CMS and OSHA also have specific requirements you should be familiar with and adhere to.

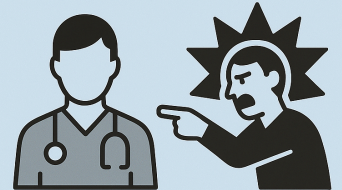
Medical Mutual has a practice tip for [Workplace Violence Management in Healthcare](#). Please don't hesitate to reach out to your assigned risk manager for further assistance or call the Medical Mutual Risk department directly at 1-800-942-2791.

*This article falls under **Legal/Regulatory** and **Human Capital** in the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) risk domains.*

Legal/Regulatory

Risk within this domain incorporates the failure to identify, manage and monitor legal, regulatory, and statutory mandates on a local, state and federal level. Such risks are generally associated with fraud and abuse, licensure, accreditation, product liability, management liability, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation (CoPs) and Conditions for Coverage (CfC), as well as issues related to intellectual property.

PREVENTING WORKPLACE VIOLENCE IN HEALTHCARE



Human Capital

This domain refers to the organization's workforce. Included are risks associated with employee selection, retention, turnover, staffing, absenteeism, on-the-job work-related injuries (workers' compensation), work schedules and fatigue, productivity, compensation, succession planning and labor unionization activity. Human capital associated risks may cover recruitment, diversity, retention, and termination of members of the medical and allied health staff

Managing Mental Illness in Pregnancy and Postpartum



Women who manage depression or other psychological disorders with prescribed medication often discontinue meds while pregnant, which can lead to significant adverse consequences.

In the article, [Managing Mental Illness in Pregnancy and Postpartum: What to Know](#), Medscape reports, “For women with, or at a risk for, depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, or other psychiatric conditions, managing mental health during pregnancy and postpartum presents unique challenges. For physicians,

understanding the latest research and clinical guidance is essential for managing these patients effectively.”

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) offers Clinical Practice Guidelines for the [Treatment and Management of Mental Health Conditions During Pregnancy and Postpartum](#).

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U.S. Tuberculosis Cases Rising Steadily

Tuberculosis cases in the United States have been rising steadily after a rapid decline during the COVID-19 pandemic and are now at a twelve-year high. Healthcare organizations need to evaluate trends in their local area to ensure that employee screening policies are current and effective.

Med Page Today reports that [34 states saw increases in TB cases in 2024](#). Physicians and healthcare organizations should ensure patients with TB/respiratory symptoms are appropriately screened for risk factors such as exposure and international travel. The increased prevalence of infectious disease may also necessitate a reevaluation of procedures for screening healthcare personnel.



According to the CDC's [Clinical Testing Guidance for Tuberculosis:](#)

[Health Care Personnel](#), “Annual TB testing is not recommended unless there is a known exposure or ongoing transmission.”

The CDC further states, “CDC recommendations do not override or replace state regulations. State and local regulations may differ to meet local needs.” Refer to local guidance as needed.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your assigned risk manager for further assistance or call the Medical Mutual Risk department directly at 1-800-942-2791.

*This article falls under **Technology** in the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) risk domains.*

This domain covers machines, hardware, equipment, devices, wearable technologies and tools, but can also include techniques, systems and methods of organization. Health care has seen an escalation in the use of technology for clinical diagnosis and treatment, training and education, information storage and retrieval, and asset preservation. Examples also include Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Meaningful Use, financial and billing systems, social media and cyber security; cyber risks can be significant.

Upcoming Risk Management Webinar

Breaking Down EMTALA What Every Healthcare Provider Needs to Know

Wednesday, May 14, 2025
12:00 – 1:00 PM
Virtual – Join from anywhere

Join us for an informative one-hour webinar designed to help providers, administrators, and staff understand the responsibilities and risks related to EMTALA.

In this session, we'll cover:

- The core requirements of EMTALA
- Legal, ethical, and risk management considerations
- Common violations seen in claims data
- Real-world case studies and best practices

This event is free to attend for Medical Mutual policyholders.

Signup on our website www.medicalmutual.com.