**NEWS RELEASE**

# Transitioning new clinicians from education to practice named top patient safety concern of 2024

###### Nonprofit patient safety organization releases annual list of 10 patient safety threats in conjunction with Patient Safety Awareness week, March 10 to 16

**March 11, 2024**

**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA** – Challenges transitioning new clinicians from academic training to professional practice tops ECRI’s 2024 list of 10 patient safety concerns released by one of the nation’s largest patient safety organizations. ECRI researchers compiled the report by drawing on evidence-based research, data, and expert insights.

Difficulties accessing maternal and perinatal care also made the list, along with the decline of healthcare workers’ wellbeing, and unintended outcomes of adopting new technologies. The Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns report serves as a guide for helping providers and systems reduce risks and improve outcomes for their patients and workforce.

Studies show the pandemic disrupted the traditional hands-on, in-person educational experiences of new clinicians, an issue compounded by healthcare workforce shortages. According to ECRI experts, without sufficient preparation, support, and training throughout the transition into practice, new clinicians may be especially prone to loss of confidence, burnout, and reduced mindfulness around a culture of safety. The convergence of these factors can result in failures to address preventable harm or incidents that cause adverse events for patients, according to ECRI researchers.

“Through no fault of their own, clinicians who started practicing medicine in the last several years didn’t have the same early experience as those who came before them – before the pandemic laid bare critical weaknesses in our healthcare system,” said Marcus Schabacker, MD, PhD, president and CEO of ECRI. “ECRI’s top patient safety concern is a call to action to set new clinicians up for success through a Total Systems Safety approach and assess and redesign the environments in which clinicians are trained, onboarded, mentored, and supported.”

The top 10 patient safety concerns for 2024 are:

1. Transitioning new clinicians from education to practice
2. Workarounds with barcode medication administration systems
3. Access to maternal and perinatal care
4. Unintended consequences of technology adoption
5. Physical and emotional well-being of healthcare workers
6. Complexity of preventing diagnostic error
7. Equitable care for people with physical and intellectual disabilities
8. Drug, supply, and equipment shortages
9. Misuse of parenteral syringes to administer oral liquid medications
10. Preventing patient falls

ECRI’s experts identify several recommendations for these concerns, especially to better prepare new clinicians for practice, including collaborative partnerships among academic and healthcare institutions, robust transition-to-practice programs with intense preceptorships, and simulation-based education to supplement live hands-on learning.

“Hospitals and health systems that are ECRI members have reported to us they’re very concerned about the current state of how newly trained clinicians are transitioned into practice,” said Dheerendra Kommala, MD, chief medical officer at ECRI. “More research is needed to quantify how this issue impacts patient safety outcomes. In the meantime, early indicators warn us to act now. Investments in this new generation of healthcare professionals will establish a stronger, more resilient workforce for decades to come.”

**On March 15, ECRI patient safety experts will host a webinar to discuss the top patient safety concern of 2024.** [**Register to join.**](http://www.ecri.org/2024concerns)

ECRI and its affiliate, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), analyzed a wide scope of data to identify the most pressing threats to patient safety, including scientific literature, patient safety events, concerns reported to or investigated by ECRI and ISMP, client research requests and queries, and other internal and external data sources.

ECRI’s **Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns for 2024** report includes recommendations for healthcare organizations to create organizational resilience to navigate the identified threats and strive for Total Systems Safety. [Download the report](http://www.ecri.org/2024concerns).

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**Contact**  
Yvonne Rhodes, Associate Director of Strategic Communications, [yrhodes@ecri.org](mailto:yrhodes@ecri.org)

**About ECRI**  
ECRI is an independent, nonprofit organization improving the safety, quality, and cost-effectiveness of care across all healthcare settings. With a focus on technology evaluation and safety, ECRI is respected and trusted by healthcare leaders and agencies worldwide. Over the past fifty-five years, ECRI has built its reputation on integrity and disciplined rigor, with an unwavering commitment to independence and strict conflict-of-interest rules. ECRI is the only organization worldwide to conduct independent medical device evaluations, with labs located in North America and Asia Pacific. ECRI is designated an Evidence-based Practice Center by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. ECRI and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices PSO is a federally certified Patient Safety Organization as designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) formally became an ECRI Affiliate in 2020. Visit www.ecri.org. follow @ismp\_org to learn more.