

# What's New in the Patient Safety World

March 2024

## ECRI Top 10 Health Technology Hazards for 2024

ECRI has published its annual Top 10 Health Technology Hazards list for 2024 ([ECRI 2024](#)).

1. Medical Devices May Pose Usability Challenges for Home Users, Risking Misuse and Patient Harm
2. Inadequate or Onerous Device Cleaning Instructions Endanger Patients
3. Sterile Drug Compounding without the Use of Technological Safeguards Increases the Risk of Medication Errors
4. Overlooked Environmental Impacts of Patient Care Endanger Public Health
5. Insufficient Governance of AI Used in Medical Technologies Risks Inappropriate Care Decisions
6. Ransomware Targeting the Healthcare Sector Remains a Critical Threat
7. Increased Burn Risk with Single-Foil Electrosurgical Return Electrodes
8. Infusion Pump Damage Remains a Medication Safety Concern
9. Poor QC of Implantable Orthopedic Products Can Lead to Surgical Delays and Patient Harm
10. Third-Party Web Analytics Software Can Compromise Patient Confidentiality

We don't have much to add to ECRI's list and we refer you to the ECRI list itself for details.

Item #7 Increased Burn Risk with Single-Foil Electrosurgical Return Electrodes is a valuable addition to our list of iatrogenic burns. We've discussed electrosurgical safety in our Patient Safety Tips of the Week for July 28, 2020 "[Electrosurgical Safety](#)" and December 5, 2023 "[Thermal Injuries During Surgery](#)". As is often the case with many such electrosurgical burns, ECRI notes that clinicians were not aware of the risks of burns associated with the use of single-foil conductive return electrodes in several cases reported to them.

### Our prior columns on iatrogenic burns:

- March 2009 "[Risk of Burns during MRI Scans from Transdermal Drug Patches](#)"

- June 1, 2010 “[Iatrogenic Burns](#)”
- October 5, 2010 “[More Iatrogenic Burns](#)”
- December 23, 2014 “[Iatrogenic Burns in the News Again](#)”
- March 2015 “[Another Source of Iatrogenic Burns](#)”
- September 5, 2017 “[Another Iatrogenic Burn](#)”
- June 5, 2018 “[Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority on Iatrogenic Burns](#)”
- July 28, 2020 “[Electrosurgical Safety](#)”
- January 2021 “[New MRI Risk: Face Masks](#)”
- May 3, 2022 “[Iatrogenic Burns Again](#)”
- December 6, 2022 “[Rare Risk – Defibrillator Fires](#)”
- April 25, 2023 “[Joint Commission: Beware Light Source Burns](#)”
- December 5, 2023 “[Thermal Injuries During Surgery](#)”

## References:

ECRI. Top 10 Health Technology Hazards for 2024 Executive Brief. ECRI 2024  
<https://www.ecri.org/2024hazards/>



<http://www.patientsafetysolutions.com/>

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