



ECRI is widely recognized as the world's leading independent organization committed to the assessment, evaluation and continued improvement of healthcare technology. A nonprofit, tax-exempt institute chartered in 1955, ECRI provides a broad variety of services in support of better patient care to thousands of hospitals and other health-related organizations and agencies throughout the world. Our health services research, publications, databases, and technical assistance programs are the benchmark for the healthcare community.

ECRI is dedicated to improving the safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness of health technology, broadly defined to encompass devices, drugs, procedures, facilities, and related standards and guidelines. The results of our research and experience are made available through our publications, information systems, laboratory services, seminars, and technical assistance and management programs. We meet the needs of the healthcare community and its patients through the interdisciplinary application of analytical, clinical, basic biomedical, engineering, information, physical, and social sciences.

More than 30 years' experience and a staff of experts recognized in their individual fields enable ECRI to provide a depth and scope of service unmatched by any other organization. Strictly enforced conflict-of-interest

guidelines guarantee an unbiased approach to all projects. We have carefully developed an environment and working conditions that encourage maximum objectivity, productivity, and integrity of process. Neither ECRI nor any of its staff has a financial interest in the sale of any medical technology. ECRI and its staff accept no royalties, gifts, finder's fees, or commissions from the medical device or pharmaceutical industries and are not permitted to own stock in or undertake consulting work for such industries.



Staff • Our full-time interdisciplinary staff of approximately 250 provides a broad range of analytical, clinical, management, and technical expertise. ECRI staff members include physicians, doctoral-level life scientists, epidemiologists, and biostatisticians; biomedical, electrical, electronic, chemical, mechanical and registered professional engineers; and attorneys, nurses, hospital planners, pharmacologists, physicists, and specialists in clinical technology, hospi-

tal administration, financial and policy analysis, risk management, and information and computer science. Research associates and advisory boards add the knowledge of hundreds of additional experienced individuals.

ECRI's staff members regularly publish in medical, hospital, and technical journals and participate frequently in professional conferences and symposia.

5200 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1298, USA

Telephone +1 (610) 825-6000 • Fax +1 (610) 834-1275

www.ecri.org

Facilities and Resources • ECRI owns a 12-acre research campus in suburban Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Our 120,000-square-foot (11,148-square-meter) facility includes extensively instrumented laboratories for electronic, environmental, mechanical, and physical testing; calibration; chemistry; microbiology; photography; and surgical physiology. A television studio and printing, publication, conference, and classroom facilities provide supporting services.

Our library receives, reviews, and maintains over 1,500 periodicals and thousands of other documents each year and has direct online connection to a broad range of electronic databases.

A powerful IBM computer system with sophisticated database management software and more than 200 PC workstations in a local area network (LAN) provide online information retrieval, text-editing, and typesetting capabilities. A variety of minicomputer and microprocessor systems facilitate collection and processing of laboratory and field data.

Services • ECRI research, publications, and services span healthcare technology, facilities planning, risk management, environmental management, and quality of care. For more than two decades, we have published the results of our own intensive medical device evaluation and testing programs. Our Health Technology Assessment Information Service provides comprehensive, up-to-the-minute, objective evaluations of drugs, devices, and procedures. It is supported by our unique International Health Technology Assessment Database.

ECRI is the world's most comprehensive source of data and judgment on medical devices and equipment. In conjunction with our Health Devices System, *Healthcare Product Comparison System*, and

SELECT™ Program, we have amassed comprehensive databases on over 5,000 categories of devices. Our *Healthcare Standards Directory* is compiled from a database containing well over 23,000 clinical practice standards and guidelines. Other databases contain more than 300,000 reports of medical device evaluations, problems and hazards, cost studies, and technology assessments from worldwide sources. Databases employing thousands of sources are updated daily and also draw on our International Problem Reporting and User Experience Networks™; our extensive technology assessment, technical assistance, and product testing programs; and our accident and forensic investigation group. Additional information comes from laboratories, hospitals, and government agencies around the world.

Many ECRI databases can be accessed from local terminals in most parts of the world by means of an international computer network. ECRI also provides information by means of an extensive range of publications and technical assistance programs related to healthcare facilities and technology.

Affiliations • ECRI enjoys a number of affiliations with hospital associations and groups, medical schools, universities, ministries of health, and other institutions. We provide research opportunities for graduate degree candidates and electives and work-study programs for medical and engineering students. We also have unique internship and fellowship programs for postgraduate training.

Worldwide Scope • ECRI is a Collaborating Center of the World Health Organization. We have carried out technical assistance projects in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Arctic, and the Pacific, as well as throughout North and South America.