

Adverse drug events in ambulatory care.

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Gandhi TK, Weingart SN, Borus J, et al. Adverse drug events in ambulatory care. *New Engl J Med.* 2003;348(16):1556-1564.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/adverse-drug-events-ambulatory-care>

This prospective cohort study evaluated more than 1200 outpatient prescriptions, surveyed patients, and conducted a chart review during a 4-week period. Investigators discovered that 25% of patients experienced an [adverse drug event](#) with selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors, beta blockers, angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitors, and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication classes the most frequently implicated. The rate of ADEs in this study approached 27 per 100 patients, a rate that quadruples those estimated in the inpatient setting. The authors suggest a number of preventive strategies that may reduce the nearly one third of events that were deemed preventable.