

Safety of patients isolated for infection control.

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Stelfox HT, Bates DW, Redelmeier DA. Safety of patients isolated for infection control. JAMA. 2003;290(14):1899-1905.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/safety-patients-isolated-infection-control>

This study discovered that patients isolated for colonization or infection with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* suffered more preventable adverse events, less satisfaction with care, and less documentation for their care, but no difference in mortality compared to a control group. Examples of the reported differences in care quality included absence of accurately recorded vital signs, missing daily physician progress notes, and less delivery of disease-specific standards for heart failure management. While safety precautions and isolation of selected patients certainly reduce the transmission of communicable infections, a potential patient safety issue results from the care these patients receive once isolated—an unintended adverse consequence.