

## Reducing adverse drug events: lessons from a breakthrough series collaborative.

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The authors describe the experience of 40 hospitals that participated in an [Institute for Healthcare Improvement \(IHI\)](#) Breakthrough Series collaboration to reduce medication errors. Participating institutions were educated in the “Model for Improvement,” a structured set of change management practices emphasizing clear identification of goals, “rapid cycle” evaluation of intermediate steps toward the goal, and a collaborative, team-oriented approach. The successful experiences of participating institutions are reviewed, as well as cases and causes of failed initiatives. The authors review the value of this systems-based, team-oriented quality improvement effort relative to traditional “blame and train” practices focused on the individual practitioner and discuss the challenges of maintaining performance gains over time.