

The relationship between early emergency team calls and serious adverse events.

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Chen J, Bellomo R, Flabouris A, et al. The relationship between early emergency team calls and serious adverse events. Crit Care Med. 2009;37(1):148-53. doi:10.1097/CCM.0b013e3181928ce3.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/relationship-between-early-emergency-team-calls-and-serious-adverse-events>

The largest study of [rapid response systems](#) to date, the [MERIT trial](#) was conducted in 23 Australian hospitals and did not demonstrate overall improvement in clinical outcomes. However, a [limitation](#) of this study was that the rapid response team was not actually called to evaluate the majority of patients who subsequently suffered a cardiac arrest. This retrospective analysis of data from the same study found evidence for a "dose-response" relationship between rapid response team use and clinical outcomes, in that early activation of the team was associated with a reduction in cardiac arrests.