

## **Adverse Events in Hospitals: Care Study of Incidence Among Medicare Beneficiaries in Two Selected Counties.**

February 18, 2009

Levinson DR. Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General; December 2008. Report No. OEI-06-08-00220.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/adverse-events-hospitals-care-study-incidence-among-medicare-beneficiaries-two-selected>

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The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [no longer reimburses](#) hospitals for the costs associated with certain preventable adverse events, many (but not all) of which are considered [never events](#). This report from the federal Office of the Inspector General (OIG) examines the adverse events in a sample of Medicare beneficiaries. As outlined in a [previous report](#), the OIG chose to evaluate the overall incidence of adverse events, including "no pay for errors" conditions, never events, and all other adverse consequences of hospitalization, including non-preventable adverse events. Therefore, the 15% overall incidence of adverse events found in this study should be interpreted with caution. Less than 1% of patients experienced a never event, and approximately 4% experienced a condition on CMS's no pay for errors list.