

The nature and causes of unintended events reported at ten emergency departments.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/nature-and-causes-unintended-events-reported-ten-emergency-departments>

Emergency department (ED) patients are particularly vulnerable to adverse events, and a prior study of [closed malpractice claims](#) implicated systems factors such as poor teamwork in adverse patient outcomes. This study used [root cause analysis](#) of [incident reports](#) to identify the types and causes of errors and unanticipated events in the ED. Incidents included poor communication and teamwork, particularly with other departments, but [medication errors](#) and diagnostic errors were also noted. The authors recommend that organizations integrate the ED into hospital-wide safety improvement efforts.