

Adopting real-time surveillance dashboards as a component of an enterprisewide medication safety strategy.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/adopting-real-time-surveillance-dashboards-component-enterprisewide-medication-safety>

[Adverse drug event](#) surveillance is an important [strategy](#) to both identify and prevent medication errors, particularly for [high-risk](#) medications. This study reports on the development of a real-time surveillance [dashboard](#) to enable pharmacy review of high-alert medication orders and complement a system already using [computerized provider order entry](#) and clinical decision support. Of nearly 30,000 hospitalizations studied, there were more than 2200 that involved exposure to [warfarin](#), 8300 to [heparin](#) or enoxaparin, and 890 to aminoglycosides. Real-time pharmacy review of the dashboard provided a vehicle to prevent medication errors or optimize therapy; for example, 55% of patients receiving aminoglycosides did not have a baseline creatinine. The authors argue that even sophisticated computerized systems require active surveillance systems to leverage technology and provide necessary medication safety.