

Reporting of sentinel events in Swedish hospitals: a comparison of severe adverse events reported by patients and providers.

December 8, 2011

Öhrn A, Elfström J, Liedgren C, et al. Reporting of sentinel events in Swedish hospitals: a comparison of severe adverse events reported by patients and providers. *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.* 2011;37(11):495-501.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/reporting-sentinel-events-swedish-hospitals-comparison-severe-adverse-events-reported>

Hospitals are being encouraged to [engage patients](#) in safety programs, in part because [prior studies](#) have shown that patients themselves can be a unique source of information about adverse events. In Sweden, clinicians are required to report cases of [serious adverse events](#), and patients can obtain compensation for such events through a [no-fault](#) malpractice insurance system. However, this study found that more than 80% of cases where patients were compensated for severe injuries were not reported by practitioners, including many cases of [health care–associated infections](#) and [diagnostic errors](#). The related editorial calls for hospitals to redouble their efforts to promote patient participation in reporting and addressing patient safety problems.