

Disclosure of "nonharmful" medical errors and other events: duty to disclose.

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Chamberlain CJ, Koniaris LG, Wu AW, et al. Disclosure of "nonharmful" medical errors and other events: duty to disclose. Arch Surg. 2012;147(3):282-6. doi:10.1001/archsurg.2011.1005.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/disclosure-nonharmful-medical-errors-and-other-events-duty-disclose>

A critical element in managing medical errors, the duty to [disclose](#) is endorsed as a key safety [practice](#) by the National Quality Forum. This commentary focuses on the disclosure of near misses or nonharmful errors, which are situations when providers typically feel [less](#) inclined to disclose. The authors offer a working definition of patient harm before providing a compelling discussion that advocates for [greater](#) reporting of nonharmful events to patients and to formal [reporting systems](#). Recommendations for how to disclose errors are also shared along with rationale for why an open disclosure approach can lead to improved patient care. A past AHRQ WebM&M [perspective](#) and [interview](#) discussed different facets of error disclosure.