

Multiple patient safety events within a single hospitalization: a national profile in US hospitals.

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It is generally agreed that approximately [1 in 10](#) hospitalized patients experiences an adverse event, and recent research has also quantified the [daily risk](#) of preventable adverse events for a typical hospitalization. The phenomenon of [cascade iatrogenesis](#)—a single patient suffering multiple adverse events—is well known to clinicians, and this study sought to quantify the incidence of this phenomenon. Using the AHRQ [Patient Safety Indicators](#) as a screening tool, the authors found that multiple patient safety events occurred in approximately 1 in 1000 adult hospitalizations. Although these instances were rare, patients with multiple adverse events had prolonged hospitalizations and significantly increased costs compared with uncomplicated hospital stays.