

Comparative economic analyses of patient safety improvement strategies in acute care: a systematic review.

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Progress has been achieved in several areas of patient safety, but the cost-effectiveness of successful interventions remains an important question for policymakers and organizational leadership. This systematic review evaluated the cost-effectiveness of interventions to address 15 key safety targets (including [health care-associated infections](#), adverse drug events, retained foreign bodies after surgery, and [wrong-site surgery](#)), but identified only 7 methodologically adequate economic analyses. Based on this limited dataset, the authors identified 4 cost-effective safety interventions, including [checklists](#) to prevent catheter-related bloodstream infections and [medication reconciliation](#) conducted by [pharmacists](#). More robust economic analyses will be required in order to help prioritize safety interventions in the future.