

Double checking the administration of medicines: what is the evidence? A systematic review.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/double-checking-administration-medicines-what-evidence-systematic-review>

[Double-checking](#) of medication administration by two qualified health professionals is meant to reduce the risk of [medication errors](#). However, [prior experience](#) with this practice has raised numerous potential problems. This systematic review examined the limited evidence base for medication administration double-checking. The majority of included studies were qualitative and consisted of asking nurses whether they felt double-checking was likely to result in fewer medication errors. Three quantitative studies showed a modest decrease in error rates. The authors found insufficient evidence to either support or refute the practice of double-checking. Despite this lack of evidence, manual double-checking has been a previously [recommended](#) strategy and has become standard policy for [high-risk medications](#) at many hospitals.