

Teaching hospital five-year mortality trends in the wake of duty hour reforms.

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Volpp KG, Small DS, Romano PS, et al. Teaching hospital five-year mortality trends in the wake of duty hour reforms. J Gen Intern Med. 2013;28(8):1048-55. doi:10.1007/s11606-013-2401-9.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/teaching-hospital-five-year-mortality-trends-wake-duty-hour-reforms>

Although the 2003 [duty hour regulations](#) for resident physicians were intended as a patient safety intervention, concerns were raised that the rules might actually result in patient harm by increasing [handoffs](#). These concerns were allayed by [prior studies](#) that found no increase in mortality at teaching hospitals after duty hours were restricted. This follow-up study tracked 5-year outcomes among Medicare patients and found no increase in mortality rates at teaching hospitals compared with less teaching-intensive hospitals. While it now appears clear that the 2003 duty hour limits had little impact on either [safety outcomes](#) or clinical outcomes, the effect of [further regulations](#) implemented in 2011 remains to be seen.