

Conditions that influence the impact of malpractice litigation risk on physicians' behavior regarding patient safety.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/conditions-influence-impact-malpractice-litigation-risk-physicians-behavior-regarding-patient>

Some physician behaviors that conflict with patient safety, such as practicing [defensive medicine](#), may be spurred by malpractice litigation risk. This field study identified four conditional factors that could affect the relationship between physician behavior and litigation risk: complexity of care, discussion of mistakes among colleagues, personalized rather than team responsibility, and how hospitals respond to incidents.