

Safety incidents in the primary care office setting.

July 3, 2016

Rees P, Edwards A, Panesar S, et al. Safety incidents in the primary care office setting. *Pediatrics*. 2015;135(6):1027-35. doi:10.1542/peds.2014-3259.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/safety-incidents-primary-care-office-setting>

Patient safety in [outpatient settings](#) is a growing concern. In this analysis of [voluntarily reported safety events](#) from the United Kingdom, researchers identified serious risks for children cared for in outpatient family medicine settings. [Medication management](#), [diagnostic errors](#), and errors in the [referral process](#) contributed significantly to patient harm, echoing [prior studies](#) about outpatient safety. The authors call for implementation of safety practices such as [barcode medication administration](#), clinical decision support software, and [electronic referral tracking](#), all of which remain incompletely implemented in ambulatory care. Given the known under-reporting of adverse events, this report likely underestimates the frequency of patient safety problems in this outpatient setting and emphasizes the need for active safety monitoring.