

## Electronic health record–related events in medical malpractice claims.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/electronic-health-record-related-events-medical-malpractice-claims>

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Although health information technology (IT) has [improved](#) patient safety, studies have shown that implementing electronic health records can introduce [new errors](#). This study examined [closed malpractice claims](#) related to health IT. Most cases occurred in [ambulatory care settings](#), suggesting that current health IT may not be optimally designed to support safety in those settings. Cases involving medication errors, [diagnostic errors](#), or treatment complications were almost equally prevalent, indicating that health IT vulnerabilities span multiple tasks and functions. Software design issues and implementation problems also played a role in these incidents. These findings emphasize the need to reexamine health information technologies and how they are implemented in health care systems to enhance safety. A recent [PSNet perspective](#) examined challenges in health IT implementation, and [another perspective](#) discussed the need for innovations in health IT usability.