

## Increased risk of burnout for physicians and nurses involved in a patient safety incident.

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Clinicians who are involved in an adverse event often experience significant emotional consequences, leading to the term "[second victim](#)." This survey of physicians and nurses in Belgium examined the relationship between involvement in an error in the past 6 months and clinicians' emotional state, risk of engaging in high-risk behaviors, and work-life balance. Involvement in an error was strongly correlated with [burnout](#), potentially harmful medication use, and plans to leave the health care field. The cross-sectional nature of the study makes it difficult to discern causality, and [other studies](#) show that burnout increases the risk of committing an error. Nevertheless, this study adds to a growing body of literature demonstrating that errors have long-lasting harmful effects for clinicians. A [qualitative study](#) explored how clinicians recover from being involved in errors, and a [WebM&M commentary](#) describes ways that organizations can help clinicians in the recovery process.