

## Evaluating serial strategies for preventing wrong-patient orders in the NICU.

December 22, 2017

Adelman JS, Aschner JL, Schechter CB, et al. Evaluating Serial Strategies for Preventing Wrong-Patient Orders in the NICU. *Pediatrics*. 2017;139(5). doi:10.1542/peds.2016-2863.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/evaluating-serial-strategies-preventing-wrong-patient-orders-nicu>

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[Wrong-patient errors](#) are a well-established risk in the health care setting. Research has shown that providers, often [multitasking](#), may enter [notes](#) or [medication orders](#) for the wrong patient. A [prior study](#) touted point-of-care photographs as a helpful intervention for identifying and preventing wrong-patient errors in a cardiothoracic intensive care unit. However, less is known about wrong-patient errors in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) population and ways to prevent them. Researchers analyzed more than 850,000 NICU orders and more than 3.5 million non-NICU orders in pediatric patients over a 7-year period. At baseline, they found that wrong-patient orders occurred more frequently in the NICU population with an odds ratio of 1.56. Interventions included requiring reentry of patient identifiers prior to order entry as well as a new naming system for newborns. Implementation of both led to a 61.1% reduction in wrong-patient errors in the NICU population from baseline. A previous [WebM&M commentary](#) highlights a case of wrong-patient identification.