

Preventable and mitigable adverse events in cancer care: measuring risk and harm across the continuum.

December 7, 2017

Lipitz-Snyderman A, Pfister D, Classen D, et al. Preventable and mitigable adverse events in cancer care: measuring risk and harm across the continuum. *Cancer*. 2017;123(23):4728-4736. doi:10.1002/cncr.30916. <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/preventable-and-mitigable-adverse-events-cancer-care-measuring-risk-and-harm-across-continuum>

Cancer care has been the setting for seminal, [practice-changing errors](#). This retrospective study aimed to [identify adverse events](#) in cancer care through medical record review, using a random sample of breast, colorectal, and lung cancer cases from 2012. As with [prior studies](#), physician investigators determined preventability and extent of harm. Over a third of patients experienced an adverse event, and about 32% of adverse events were deemed preventable. Most adverse events occurred in the inpatient setting. Adverse events included [medication errors](#) and [hospital-acquired conditions](#), such as pressure ulcers and falls. The authors conclude that patient safety remains an important consideration for cancer care that merits further research and improvement efforts.