

Effect of systematic physician cross-checking on reducing adverse events in the emergency department: the CHARMED cluster randomized trial.

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Freund Y, Goulet H, Leblanc J, et al. Effect of Systematic Physician Cross-checking on Reducing Adverse Events in the Emergency Department: The CHARMED Cluster Randomized Trial. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2018;178(6):812-819. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2018.0607.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/effect-systematic-physician-cross-checking-reducing-adverse-events-emergency-department>

In emergency departments (EDs), [high medical acuity](#), incomplete information, and productivity pressures can contribute to [preventable adverse events](#) and near misses. Systems solutions have improved [medication safety](#) and [team communication](#) in EDs, but few interventions have meaningfully affected [diagnostic and treatment errors](#). Investigators conducted a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the impact of ED physicians' cross-checking their diagnostic and treatment plans with another physician. Compared with standard care, patients whose physicians performed cross-checking were 40% less likely to experience a preventable adverse event or near miss. This study's design, large sample size, and ascertainment of patient-centered outcomes were particularly robust. A past [WebM&M commentary](#) and [PSNet perspective](#) examined other initiatives to improve emergency department safety.