

## **Do written disclosures of serious events increase risk of malpractice claims? One health care system's experience.**

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Painter LM, Kidwell KM, Kidwell RP, et al. Do Written Disclosures of Serious Events Increase Risk of Malpractice Claims? One Health Care System's Experience. J Patient Saf. 2018;14(2):87-94.

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[Disclosing medical errors](#) to [patients](#) and families is considered essential for maintaining a therapeutic relationship and a core tenet of medical professionalism, but less is known about the impact of disclosure on malpractice claims and [compensation](#). In this study, researchers sought to understand the effect of state legislation requiring disclosure of serious events to patients. Using data from a single, large health care system, they found that although the number of serious event disclosures increased between May 2002—the year the legislation was enacted—and June 2011, the rate of [malpractice claims](#) remained stable. Claims that were disclosed and claims that involved greater harm were associated with increased compensation. An accompanying editorial highlights some of the advantages of comprehensive disclosure programs.