

Association of opioid-related adverse drug events with clinical and cost outcomes among surgical patients in a large integrated health care delivery system.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/association-opioid-related-adverse-drug-events-clinical-and-cost-outcomes-among-surgical>

[Opioids](#) are known to be high-risk medications. This secondary data analysis of more than 100,000 patients undergoing in-hospital surgical procedures at 21 hospitals found that about 10% experienced an opioid-related [adverse drug event](#) during their admission. Patients receiving higher dose and longer duration of opioids were more likely to experience adverse events. Patients who experienced an opioid-related adverse drug event had longer hospital stays, greater inpatient mortality risk, and a higher rate of [readmissions](#) compared to those who did not experience problems with opioid medications. The authors call for reducing [opioid](#) use in acute care, postoperative settings in order to improve patient safety. A previous [WebM&M commentary](#) emphasized the importance of stratifying risk for patients initiated or maintained on chronic opioid therapy to prevent misuse.