

Changes in practice among physicians with malpractice claims.

April 3, 2019

Studdert DM, Spittal MJ, Zhang Y, et al. Changes in Practice among Physicians with Malpractice Claims. N Engl J Med. 2019;380(13):1247-1255. doi:10.1056/NEJMsa1809981.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/changes-practice-among-physicians-malpractice-claims>

[Malpractice claims](#) can shed light on patient safety hazards. This observational study examined how paid malpractice claims affected physicians' practice. Investigators found that a small proportion of physicians, about 10%, had one or more paid malpractice claims, consistent with [prior studies](#). Approximately 2% of physicians accounted for nearly 40% of [paid claims](#). Physicians with paid claims were more likely to leave clinical practice and more likely to move to smaller practice settings. The authors raise the concern that physicians who move to smaller practice settings may lack the institutional and peer support to remediate their clinical skills and [behavior](#). A [PSNet perspective](#) explored the risk of recurring medicolegal events among providers who have received multiple malpractice claims.