

AHRQ National Scorecard on Hospital-Acquired Conditions Updated Baseline Rates and Preliminary Results 2014–2017.

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[Hospital-acquired conditions](#) (HACs) represent a significant source of preventable harm to patients. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services financially penalizes hospitals with increased numbers of HACs through the [Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program](#). This policy of [nonpayment](#) has prompted hospitals to focus significant resources on preventing HACs. This AHRQ report found a reduction in HACs from 99 per 1000 acute care discharges to 86 per 1000 discharges between 2014 and 2017, representing a decrease in 910,000 HACs and savings of \$7.7 billion. Declines in certain HACs such as adverse drug events and [Clostridium difficile infections](#) were noted to be more significant as compared to others. A past [WebM&M commentary](#) highlighted the clinical significance of HACs and described an incident involving a patient who developed a pressure ulcer while in the hospital.