

Association between physician depressive symptoms and medical errors: A systematic review and meta-analysis

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/association-between-physician-depressive-symptoms-and-medical-errors-systematic-review-and>

This systematic review and meta-analysis of 11 studies with a valid measure of physician (n=21,517) depressive symptoms found that physicians who screened positive for depression were associated with medical errors. The authors also conducted a meta-analysis of 7 longitudinal studies, which revealed there was a bidirectional association between [physician symptoms of depression and medical errors](#). This finding implies that physicians that screen positive for depressive symptoms have a higher risk for medical errors. The authors recommend that future studies need to focus on whether interventions to reduce physician depressive symptoms could play a role in reducing medical errors and improving safe patient care.