

Apparent cause analysis: a safety tool.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/apparent-cause-analysis-safety-tool>

This article explores one hospital's use of facilitated apparent cause analysis (ACA), which is defined as a limited investigation of a safety event resulting in limited or no harm and allows for fewer resources and a focus on preventative strategies. The article compares ACA versus root [cause analysis](#) and describes the process for completing facilitated ACA and the framework for an effective ACA, which includes (1) identifying the right event, (2) assembling the right team, (3) conducting the right analysis, and (4) focusing on the right action plan.