

Association between parent comfort with English and adverse events among hospitalized children.

November 11, 2020

Khan A, Yin HS, Brach C, et al. Association between parent comfort with English and adverse events among hospitalized children. JAMA Pediatr. 2020;174(12):e203215.

doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2020.3215.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/association-between-parent-comfort-english-and-adverse-events-among-hospitalized-children>

[Language barriers](#) between [patients and providers](#) is a potential contributor to [adverse events](#). Based on a cohort of 1,666 Arabic-, Chinese-, English-, and Spanish-speaking parents of general pediatric and subspecialty patients 17 years and younger, this study examined the association between parents with limited comfort with English (LCE) and adverse events in hospitalized children. Compared with children of parents who expressed comfort or proficiency with English, children of parents who expressed LCE had significantly higher odds of experiencing an adverse event, including preventable events. Future research should focus on [strategies](#) to [improve communication](#) and safety for this vulnerable group of children.