

A mixed-methods analysis of patient safety incidents involving opioid substitution treatment with methadone or buprenorphine in community-based care in England and Wales.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/mixed-methods-analysis-patient-safety-incidents-involving-opioid-substitution-treatment>

Methadone and buprenorphine are commonly prescribed to treat [opioid use disorder](#), but their use presents [patient safety risks](#). Using national data from England and Wales, this study analyzed 2,284 patient safety incident reports and found that harmful incidents involving opioid substitution treatment with methadone or buprenorphine in community-based care stemmed from errors in [dispensing practices](#) (e.g. wrong patient, incorrect dose, incorrect formulation). Staff- and organization-related factors – such as not following protocols, poor continuity of care – contributed to more than half of the incidents.