

Incidence, nature and causes of avoidable significant harm in primary care in England: retrospective case note review.

December 16, 2020

Avery AJ, Sheehan C, Bell BG, et al. Incidence, nature and causes of avoidable significant harm in primary care in England: retrospective case note review. *BMJ Qual Saf.* 2021;30(12):961-976. doi:10.1136/bmjqs-2020-011405.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/incidence-nature-and-causes-avoidable-significant-harm-primary-care-england-retrospective>

Patient safety in primary care is an [emerging focus](#) for [research](#) and [policy](#). The authors of this study retrospectively reviewed case notes from 14,407 primary care patients in the United Kingdom. Their analysis identified three primary types of avoidable harm in primary care – problems with diagnoses, medication-related problems, and delayed referrals. The authors suggest several methods to reduce avoidable harm in primary care, including optimizing existing information technology, enhanced [team communication](#) and coordination, and greater continuity of care.