Improved strategies are needed to assess of postmarket safety and effectiveness of medical devices

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In this week's *PLOS Medicine*, Daniel Kramer and colleagues from Harvard Medical School, Boston, US, compare current practices in the EU, the US, China, and Japan for monitoring the safety and effectiveness of medical devices already on the market, to identify strategies that might improve postmarket surveillance of medical devices.

Based on their comparison of current practices in the EU, the US, China, and Japan, the authors call for greater system transparency, regular reexamination of the safety and effectiveness of select devices, and improved balance of central and local control.

The authors say: "Broader use of these strategies could preserve patients' access to new technologies while protecting them as well as possible from devices that later turn out to be unsafe or ineffective."

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