

Gov't report: Hospitals improving patient safety

May 7 2014

The government says hospitals are becoming safer for patients due to a quality improvement partnership between industry and federal agencies.

A report out Wednesday from Health and Human Services finds that [adverse events](#) such as medication mistakes, falls and infections went down by 9 percent from 2010 to 2012, the latest year that such statistics were available.

That prevented nearly 15,000 deaths and saved \$4 billion in costs, the report estimated.

Separately, a key quality indicator for Medicare patients also showed continued improvement: Readmission rates declined in 2013 for the second year in a row.

Under President Barack Obama's health care law hospitals can face financial penalties if too many Medicare beneficiaries are readmitted within 30 days of an initial hospitalization.

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Citation: Gov't report: Hospitals improving patient safety (2014, May 7) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-05-govt-hospitals-patient-safety.html>

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