

# More wrong-patient orders in NICU versus non-NICU ped units

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(HealthDay)—The risk of wrong-patient orders is higher in the neonatal

intensive care unit (NICU) versus non-NICU pediatric units, and the risk of errors can be reduced with interventions, according to a study published online April 21 in *Pediatrics*.

Jason S. Adelman, M.D., from the Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, and colleagues examined the rate of wrong-patient orders in NICU and non-NICU pediatric units before implementing interventions, with an ID reentry [intervention](#) (reentry of patient identifiers before placing orders), and with the combined intervention involving addition of a distinct naming convention for newborns. During the seven-year study period, the authors reviewed more than 850,000 NICU orders and more than 3.5 million non-NICU pediatric orders.

The researchers found that wrong-patient orders were more frequent in NICU than non-NICU pediatric units at baseline (117.2 versus 74.9 per 100,000 orders; odds ratio, 1.56). The frequency of errors in the NICU was reduced with the ID reentry intervention to 60.2 per 100,000 (48.7 percent reduction; P

"The risk of wrong-patient orders in the NICU was significantly higher than in non-NICU pediatric units," the authors write. "Implementation of a combined ID reentry intervention and distinct naming convention greatly reduced this risk."

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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