

MEDICAL HARM:

- 9 MILLION PEOPLE EACH YEAR
- 400,000 DEATHS
- TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS

Healthcare
Acquired Conditions

Medication
Errors

"Never
Events"

Diagnostic
Errors

Reducing all forms of medical harm must be a policy priority. Learn more at

HEALTHCAREVALUEHUB.org/Medical-Harm

Medical Harm is the third leading cause of death in the U.S. and results in unnecessary healthcare spending and patient suffering.

Medication Errors

Medication errors harm more than 1.5 million people every year. They can occur during the ordering, administering, transcribing or dispensing of drugs. The most frequent mistakes are in labeling, incorrect dosages and medications that should have been given but were not.

"Never Events"

Preventable and costly medical errors that cause serious patient harm and should never happen. While relatively rare, "never events" include wrong site surgery or an object left inside a patient after surgery.

Healthcare-Acquired Conditions

Preventable injurious hospital errors that could reasonably have been prevented through the application of evidence-based guidelines. They include some hospital-acquired infections, falls, blood incompatibility, and other medical errors. **More than 70,000 people are killed each year by HACs.**

Diagnostic Errors

Diagnostic errors are not rigorously defined, measured or reported. Nonetheless, it is estimated that diagnoses may be wrong 10-20% of the time.