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Adverse Drug Events Drop 42% at Children's Hospitals, Study Finds

Total pediatric adverse drug events (ADEs) fell 42% in one year at children's hospitals participating in an ADE collaborative, according to a study in *Pediatrics*.¹

Opioid-related ADEs declined 51% in a year for hospitals involved with the collaborative, while other medication ADEs at those hospitals fell by 41%. A multidisciplinary team that included pediatric pharmacists developed the Adverse Drug Event Sustain and Spread (ADESS) collaborative and identified necessary ADE interventions. Hospitals teams implementing ADESS also included pharmacists.

Collaborative-developed interventions focused on standardizing medication orders, medication dispensing, improving the patient safety culture, and providing clinical decision support.

An abstract of the study is available at

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2011/06/29/peds.2010-3772.abstract>

1. Tham E, Calmes HM, Poppy A et al. Sustaining and spreading the reduction of adverse drug events in a multicenter collaborative. *Pediatrics*. 2011 Jul 4 [epub ahead of print].

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ASHP Health Policy Alerts are synopses of new studies highlighting the medication-use process in health care, especially studies assessing contemporary pharmacists' role in improving medication-use outcomes. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists encourages recipients to keep a copy of this synopsis for future reference.

