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Format: Abstract**Full text links**Med Care. 2006 Mar;44(3):265-9.

The association between hospital characteristics and rates of preventable complications and adverse events.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES: This study examined the statistical relationship between **hospital** ownership and teaching status and **hospital rates** for potentially **preventable adverse events** measured using patient safety indicators recently developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. **RESEARCH DESIGN/MEASURES:** A nationally representative sample of **hospitals** grouped into mutually exclusive combinations of control/ownership, teaching status, and rurality was defined using the Nationwide Inpatient Sample data set for the year 2000. **Hospital rates** for 5 categories of **preventable adverse events** were measured in 3 forms: unadjusted, risk-adjusted, and risk-adjusted ratios with smoothing. Multivariable regression analysis was used to measure the statistical significance of the relationship between **hospital** type and **rates** for potentially **preventable adverse events**, with adjustments for differences in **hospital** bed size and region.

RESULTS: This analysis found an inconsistent relationship between categories of **hospital** type and quality care measured by alternative indicators of potentially **preventable** conditions.

CONCLUSIONS: **Hospital** ownership and teaching status is not a consistent predictor of differences in **rates** of potentially **preventable adverse events**, and these **characteristics** explain little of the observed variation in the **rates** of these **events** across **hospitals**.

PMID: 16501398 DOI: [10.1097/01.mlr.0000199668.42261.a3](https://doi.org/10.1097/01.mlr.0000199668.42261.a3)

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