

# MEDICAL HARM:

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

Healthcare-Acquired Infections

Medication Errors

“Never Events”

Diagnostic Errors

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

[HEALTHCAREVALUEHUB.org/Medical-Harm](http://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.

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## 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”

Also known as “serious reportable events,” these are preventable and costly medical errors that cause significant patient harm and should never happen. They include wrong site surgery or an object left inside a patient after surgery, blood incompatibility, malfunctioning medical devices and some infections.

## Healthcare-Acquired Infections

Injurious hospital infections that could reasonably have been prevented using evidence-based practices. The CDC estimates more than 720,000 hospital patients are infected each year and 75,000 of them die from the infections.

## 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.