

Adverse Drug Events (ADEs)



PATIENT SAFETY

Definitions:

CDC: An adverse drug event (ADE) is when someone is harmed by a medicine.¹

CMS: An injury resulting from drug-related medical interventions.²

High Risk Medication Classes:

- Anticoagulants
- Diabetes medications
- Opioids
- Antipsychotic medications

Quick Facts About ADEs:

- It is generally estimated that about **half of ADEs are preventable**.³
- Antidiabetic meds, anticoagulants/antiplatelet meds and opioids account for **more than 50%** of ED visits for ADEs in Medicare patients.³
- Each year, ADEs account for nearly **700,000 ED visits and 100,000 hospitalizations**.³

Common ADEs:



Bleeding, bruising or clotting



Confusion or dizziness



Falls



High or low blood sugar



Sedation



Decreased respiration



Constipation

Common Causes of ADEs Include:

- New medication added
- Medication stopped
- Medication adherence changes
- Drug-drug interactions
- Drug-food interactions
- Lack of monitoring
- Care transitions

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adult_adversedrugevents.html

² <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/QAPI/Downloads/Adverse-Drug-Event-Trigger-Tool.pdf>

³ <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer/medication-errors-and-adverse-drug-events>