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# YOU SHOULD KNOW

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November 2017



## Drug Errors Far Too Common

Injuries from prescription drugs (called adverse drug events) come in two forms: unforeseen side effects caused by the drug itself or human error in taking or prescribing a drug. This month we focus on medication errors, which are far too common in our country today. Many of these errors occur when a mistake is made by a health care provider in a hospital, nursing home or other health care setting. While the medical professionals, regulators and safety advocates look for ways to prevent errors in these settings, here are measures you can take to better protect yourself and loved ones.



## Medication Errors on the Rise, but They Can Be Prevented

Medication errors occur when a mistake is made in prescribing, dispensing or taking a drug. These errors are surprisingly common in America and are on the rise, as an estimated four out of every five adults use prescription medicines, over-the-counter drugs or dietary supplements during any given week. Medication errors can cause serious injuries and even death. And something else *you should know*: Medication errors are preventable.

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### BY THE NUMBERS

# 1.5 Million

The number of preventable medication errors estimated to occur each year, according to a 2007 report from the Institute of Medicine.

### VIDEO BOOKMARK

#### Medication Safety Starts with YOU (and a List)

Why is an up-to-date, shared medication list so important to preventing medication errors? This doc shows you!

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## MEDICINE MISTAKES DOUBLE AT HOME

*The rate of serious medication errors that occur at home doubled from 2000 to 2012, a new study finds.*

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