

IOM Examines Medical Errors, More

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The Institute of Medicine (IOM) released "Informing the Future: Critical Issues in Health." The report covers many issues, including medical errors. Recommendations related to reducing medical errors include:

- establish a center for patient safety within the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- encourage the development of voluntary reporting systems for errors that do not result in serious harm by extending peer-review protections to the data and information in these systems
- establish a nationwide mandatory reporting system administered by the states to collect standardized information about adverse events that result in death or serious harm

The report is available at www.iom.edu/IOM/IOMHome.nsf/Pages/transition2000.

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