

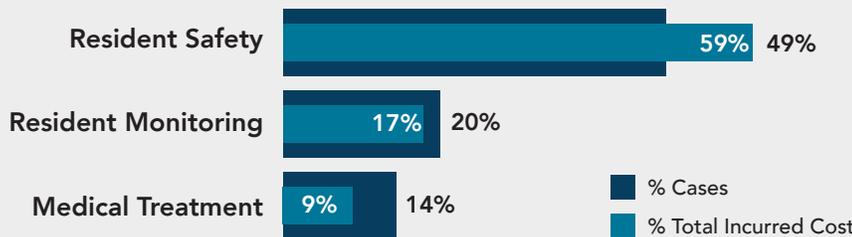
Risk Report



Reducing Resident Injury

In our analysis of Constellation professional liability claims* involving skilled nursing, assisted living and independent living facilities, the **failure to ensure resident safety—primarily falls—was the #1 most frequent allegation and #1 most costly.**

Top Allegations



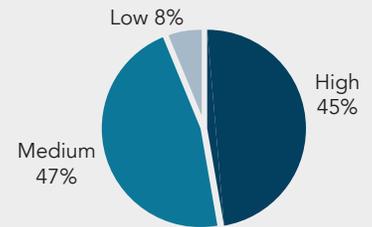
An 80-year-old woman admitted to a skilled nursing facility for rehab following a total hip replacement suffered a punctured rectum and required a permanent colostomy after being given an enema while sitting on a commode. The resident alleged improper performance of medical treatment. The case settled for \$325,000.

Did you know?

Many of the top contributing factors in these claims involve **errors in clinical judgment, failure to follow organizational policies, and breakdowns in communication among the care team.** A common thread in injury cases was a team member leaving one resident to assist another. It is crucial for team members to know how to **apply critical thinking skills** to resident care situations. Investing time and resources in building up these critical thinking and communication skills in care team members creates a stronger team and can improve resident outcomes while reducing resident injury and reducing malpractice claims.

Injury Severity

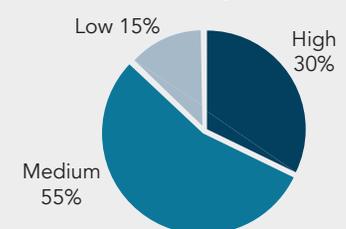
Skilled Nursing Facilities



Almost half (45%) of skilled nursing facility allegations involved high severity with **75% of these resulting in death.** Top injuries preceding death in a skilled nursing facility include fractures, arrest, hemorrhage, aspiration, and infection.

Injury Severity

Assisted Living Facilities



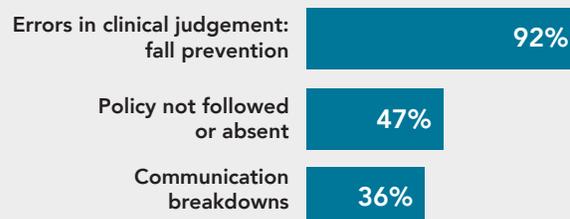
In assisted living facilities, the majority (55%) of allegations involved **medium severity injuries** including fractures, infections, contusions, burns, and ulcerations.



Almost half of all claims involved resident falls

Failure to Ensure Resident Safety—Fall Safety

The top contributing factors in resident fall claims involved:



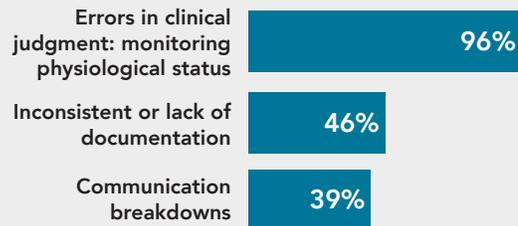
An 80-year-old resident with mild Alzheimer's and a documented risk for falls died following a fall in the shower when a care team member left him alone to respond to an alarm in a nearby room.

20%

Percentage of claims involving improper resident monitoring

Failure to Monitor Resident Physiological Status

Top contributing factors involved:



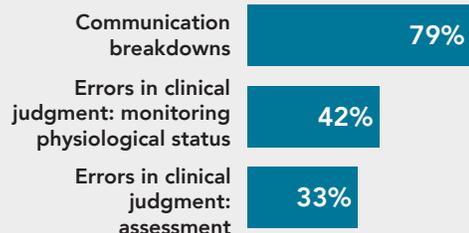
A 76-year-old woman with dementia was admitted to a skilled nursing facility due to debilitation. For several months she had steady weight loss, losing 15 pounds in five months. Her care plan did not include weight, meal or bowel movement monitoring. She became fatigued with slurred speech and was transferred to the ED where she was diagnosed with sepsis, UTI, a softball-sized stool impaction and dirty, moldy dentures.

14%

Percentage of claims involving improper medical treatment

Improper Management of Treatment Course

Top contributing factors involved:



A 72-year-old woman transferred to a skilled nursing facility for rehab following ORIF of a femur fracture was placed in a leg brace with orders to remove it twice a week for hygiene and skin monitoring. Several weeks later, the leg brace was removed due to incontinence and three open pressure ulcers were discovered. Team members had not been removing the leg brace, cleaning or monitoring her skin condition because they didn't know how to remove the brace while protecting the leg position. They did not communicate with the orthopedic surgeon. She eventually had an above the knee amputation of the leg due to infection and non-healing wounds.

What You Can Do To Reduce Resident Injury

Learn about the causes and contributing factors to resident injury

Assess your risk for resident injury and malpractice claims with our risk assessment tools

Boost care team member critical thinking skills by watching our critical thinking webinar

Optimize team communication skills with INTERACT communication tools

Implement a comprehensive fall reduction program with our fall reduction resources

A comprehensive resident safety program is available to all policyholders at [ConstellationMutual.com](https://www.constellationmutual.com)

Good for care teams. Good for business.

