

## Patient Advocates Announce Website to Collect Patients' Point of View on Adverse Medical Events

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Visit <http://www.EmpoweredPatientCoalition.org> for more information

*The Empowered Patient Coalition, in collaboration with the Consumers Union Safe Patient Project has released an online survey for patients to report details about adverse medical events. The Coalition plans to report aggregated information from the survey to highlight patients' personal experiences of medical harm at [www.EmpoweredPatientCoalition.org](http://www.EmpoweredPatientCoalition.org).*

Injury or harm as a result of medical treatment is distressingly common, estimated by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement at 15 million instances *a year*. In the aftermath of such an adverse medical event, patients and their loved ones often have a strong need to share information about their experience. In the United States and Canada, however, there is no comprehensive system in place to capture and disseminate information on adverse events, and patients often feel excluded and unheard.

The Coalition's 40-question survey is designed to include details to help identify the common factors associated with medical harm and can be accessed at <http://www.empoweredpatientcoalition.org/report-a-medical-event/report-an-adverse-event>. The survey includes sections on topics including infection, surgical complications, childbirth-related events, medication administration, and healthcare providers' responses in the wake of the adverse event. The survey can be taken anonymously to protect the privacy of patients or other reporters. Because the survey is voluntary, its results are not considered scientific. It is intended to provide a snapshot of medical harm from the patient's perspective, and to provide a glimpse into patterns that may help patients avoid future harm.

"The public is a valuable resource for adverse event reporting and should be called upon to help drive improvement efforts," said Dr. Julia Hallisy with The Empowered Patient Coalition. "It's time to draw on the collective experiences and wisdom of the people who are receiving medical care each and every day. Patients are the foundation of all patient empowerment efforts and both their input and their specific healthcare experiences are vital to efforts to achieve important patient safety goals."

The Empowered Patient Coalition is a non-profit group devoted to helping the public improve the quality and the safety of their healthcare. Consumers Union Safe Patient Project seeks to eliminate medical harm in our health care system through public disclosure of health care outcomes, information about health care providers, and drug safety.



The Empowered Patient Coalition

 **Safe Patient Project**  
*End secrecy, save lives.*

**Consumers  
Union**