

# Medical record

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A medical [record](#) is simply a record of a patient's health and [medical history](#). Depending on the level or need of care a patient has, records may vary, but all medical records will contain some common information.

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The practice of medicine is advanced by self-reflection and a desire to improve the care of patients through the refinement of procedures and medical regimens. The first systematic record-keeping tool used for improving care was utilized in the late 1800s according to archived records of Cushing and Codman <sup>1)</sup>

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Between 2013 and 2020, there were 68 wrong-site closed [claims](#) cases. The mean [age](#) of the [patients](#) was 55.7 (standard deviation 16.21) years, and 51.5% were female. The services most frequently responsible for these were Orthopedic (35.3%), Neurosurgery (22.1%), and Urology (8.8%). The most common types of [procedures](#) were spine and intervertebral disc surgery (22.1%), arthroscopy (14.7%), and surgery on muscles/tendons (11.8%). The severity of [claims](#) was higher in the [inpatient](#) setting compared to the [ambulatory](#) setting. The most common alleged injuries included the need for additional surgery (45.6%), [pain](#) (33.8%), mobility dysfunction (10.3%), worsened injury (8.8%), [death](#) (7.4%), and total loss (7.4%). The top contributing factors to wrong-site surgery were failure to follow [policy/protocol](#) (83.8%) and failure to [review](#) the [medical records](#) (41.2%). The mean closed claim value was \$136,452.84, and 60.3% of cases were settled.

The risk of wrong-site surgeries is increased with spine surgeries, likely due to unique technical challenges. Further research is required to identify effective methods of prevention of these events <sup>2)</sup>

# Electronic health record

see [Electronic health record](#).

1)

Sundararaman LV, Desai SP. The Anesthesia Records of Harvey Cushing and Ernest Codman. *Anesth Analg*. 2018 Jan;126(1):322-329. doi: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000002576. PMID: 29099433.

2)

Tan J, Ross JM, Wright D, Pimentel MPT, Urman RD. A Contemporary Analysis of Closed Claims Related to Wrong-Site Surgery. *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf*. 2023 Feb 11:S1553-7250(23)00053-3. doi: 10.1016/j.jcjq.2023.02.002. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36925434.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:54**

