**Never events**

Payers can choose to limit or eliminate payment for low quality care. It is estimated that 42% of the costs of hospital infections are preventable and preventable infections are responsible for 7.7% of hospital readmissions. In September 2008 Medicare stopped paying for a list of eight “never events,” or serious, reportable adverse events that could have reasonably been avoided with the use of evidence-based guidelines. The original list of conditions included foreign objects left in the body after surgery, incompatible blood transfusions, and pressure ulcers. Medicare’s list of conditions for non-payment has grown to 28; at least a dozen states and several private payers have followed, limiting payments for serious, avoidable hospital complications. At least 25 states require licensed health care facilities to report serious medical errors.

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2. CMS Never Events Fact Sheet, op.cit.