

Aetnas

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new contract template for hospitals calls for them to report certain serious adverse events within 10 days of learning about them. The contract calls for hospitals to report the events to the Joint Commission, state reporting programs or patient safety organizations. The events include surgery performed on the wrong body part or wrong patient, leaving a foreign object inside a patient after surgery, or discharging an infant to the wrong person. Hospitals also are asked to waive all related costs, take action to prevent future events and apologize to the patient or family. According to an [article](#)

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in the Jan. 15 edition of the Wall Street Journal, WellPoint is testing the same approach in Virginia with four errors including leaving a sponge or other object in a patient after a procedure and performing the wrong procedure. "It plans to extend the policy soon to its plans in New England, New York and Georgia. UnitedHealth Group Inc. and Cigna Corp. say they're exploring policies similar to Medicare's. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association says that its 39 member health plans are looking at approaches similar to Aetna's or working with hospitals on reducing errors," the Journal reported.