Engaging in Adverse Event Reporting: A MedWatch Case Series

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Adverse event reporting is critical to improving patient safety. Most institutions follow well-established protocols designed to encourage reporting and investigation of identified safety concerns; however, the reporting of pertinent concerns to outside surveillance systems, such as MedWatch and the Manufacturer and User Facility Device Experience, is atypical. The FDA created these entities to track the post-marketing safety of medical devices; however, less than 0.1% of reports are filed by physicians. This video demonstrates how to report events to MedWatch and navigate the Manufacturer and User Facility Device Experience. Three cases of adverse events from a single surgeon over a 12-month period involving orthopaedic device failures are presented. All the cases were presented during departmental morbidity and mortality conferences and then entered in MedWatch. Reporting device-related safety events is simple and readily available. Physicians should increase MedWatch reporting, which could be facilitated by including such reporting in departmental morbidity and mortality discussions.