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| Research Method | Pros | Cons |
| Clinicopathologic autopsy studies | * Provide objective pathologic cause of death to compare with clinical diagnosis | * Capture only mortality, not morbidity * Rely on referrals to and acceptance from medical examiners |
| Retrospective chart review based on clinical criteria | * Allow for deep dive into clinical and systems-based issues of misdiagnosis * Can produce automated electronic triggers and frameworks | * Rely on searchable clinical criteria (ex: vitals, laboratories) that may not be clear for complex diagnoses |
| Obstetric simulation and standardized patients | * Identify diagnoses with high error rates their root causes * Enable real-time feedback for clinicians and broader multidisciplinary teams | * Do not provide real-world data on cases or diagnostic error rates |
| Pregnancy-related case reviews (incident reporting and maternal mortality reviews) | * Yield thorough and individualized case reviews * Can situate diagnostic errors within complex systems | * Rely on reporting systems to identify cases for review * State boards typically review only deaths |
| Malpractice and administrative claims database queries | * Represent large datasets from a variety of hospitals * Allow for estimating financial impact of diagnostic harm | * Include few clinical case details * Lack information on systems-level issues associated with missed diagnoses |