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## IN THIS ISSUE /

**Deadly Mistakes  
Tips to Survive  
Protect Your Rights**



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Dear Andrea,

The last thing on your mind when you go to a hospital is the possibility that you will be hurt instead of helped. But that is exactly what's happening to thousands of Americans every year. Patient safety can help you protect yourself and others.



## Our Patient Safety Survival Guide

# Report Puts Medical Errors as Third Leading Cause of Death

If an airliner crashed every day of the year because of pilot error, would you travel by air? Probably not. If your doctor wanted to admit you to a hospital for a needed medical procedure, would you refuse? Probably not. But consider this: A recently published study estimates that 210,000 hospital patients die each year from preventable medical errors, roughly equivalent to 365 jumbo jet disasters. That puts medical errors as the third leading cause of death in the United States after heart disease and cancer. Refusing care is not an option for most, but **you should know** how patient safety can help you survive a hospital stay. **Videos and more. >>>**



*Many are unaware that medical errors kill thousands and injure millions of Americans.*

## BY THE NUMBERS /

98,000  
180,000  
210,000  
**440,000**  
Deaths

The 1999 study *To Err Is Human* first projected that as many as 98,000 people die each year from medical mistakes. In 2010, the Office of The Inspector General estimated 180,000 deaths. A new study from the *Journal of Patient Safety* puts the number between 210,000 and 440,000.

## THE DOCKET /

- > CREDENTIALS
- > PERSONAL INJURY
- > EMPLOYMENT LAW
- > WORKERS COMPENSATION
- > UNIONS

**40**  
Per Week

Some estimates put the national incidence of wrong site surgeries, which includes wrong patient, wrong procedure, wrong site and wrong side surgeries, as high as 40 per week.

*Source: Wrong Site Surgery Project, Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare*

Medical errors could be costing Americans nearly

### Tragic Jogging Accident

In this tragic accident a young man lost part of his leg while jogging in Janesville Wisconsin. I had the privilege of representing this young man and help him get his life back together. We were able to make a favorable recovery that will allow him to get the necessary medical help needed to move forward with his life. [Continue reading.](#)

## \$1 Trillion Problem

\$1 trillion per year due to additional medical costs, productivity losses and shortened life spans.

Source: *The Economics of Health Care Quality and Medical Errors*, *Journal of Health Care Finance*

## BOOKMARK FAVORITES /

### Service Grades Hospitals A to F

Check a hospital's safety score before you check in through this [national service](#) provided by the Leapfrog Group. Grades from A to F are based on 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data.

### Safely Navigate Your Health Care Experience

Safely navigate your health care with help from the National Patient Safety Foundation. Start at the [resource page](#), watch the [Ask Me 3](#) video and join efforts to promote [Patient Safety Awareness Week](#), March 2 to 8.

### Public Citizen Fights for Patient Safety

Public Citizen advocates for Americans on a range of issues, including health and safety. [Learn more](#) about their work to promote safer drugs and medical devices, equitable health care services and more accountability.



### Limiting Your Rights Not the Answer

Instead of focusing on the devastation caused by preventable medical mistakes, some special interests want to limit the legal rights of patients.

[Read report](#)



### Hospital Insider Shares Her Perspective

Mary Anne Hillard, Chief Risk Counsel and Vice President of Safety and Patient Experience at Children's National Medical Center, shares an inside perspective on medical mistakes.

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