



## Patient Safety: What is the Issue for Communities of Color

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August 28, 2010



## Patient Safety

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Freedom from accidental or preventable  
injuries produced by medical care.

<http://psnet.ahrq.gov/glossary.aspx#P>

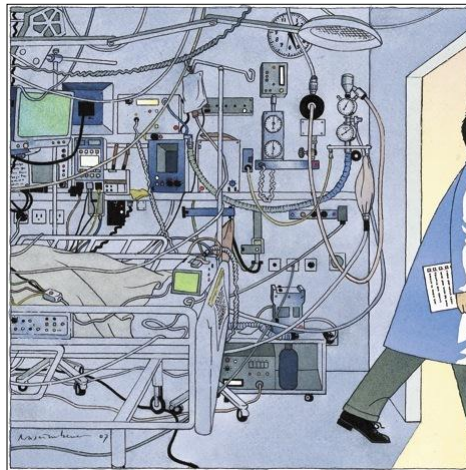


## Medical Error


Any preventable event (such as a mistake related to medication, a mistake in diagnosing or treating a condition, or a problem with medical equipment) that may cause or lead to unintended outcome or patient harm

### Glossary of terms

<http://www.patientsafety.org/page/transtoolkit/>




Source: The New Yorker, December 2007



## Patient Safety: If you Google it

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- Goals
- Organizations
- Indicators
- Quality



## Medical Errors: If you Google it

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- Statistics
- Articles
- Leading cause of death
- Stories
- Scope of the Problem



## Sample Topics in the Literature

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- DO HOSPITALS PROVIDE LOWER-QUALITY CARE TO MINORITIES THAN TO WHITES? (Darrell

J. Gaskin, Ph.D., Christine Spencer, Sc.D., Patrick Richard, Ph.D. et al )

- Racial Disparities in Patient Safety Indicator (PSI) Rates in the Veterans Health Administration

(Stephanie L. Shimada, PhD; Maria E. Montez-Rath, PhD; Susan A. Loveland, MAT; Shibe Zhao, MPH; Nancy R. Kressin, PhD; Amy K. Rosen, PhD)




## 5 Steps to Safer Health Care (Are these culturally possible?)

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- **Speak up if you have questions or concerns.**
- **Keep a list of all the medicines you take.**
- **Make sure you get the results of any test or procedure.**
- **Talk with your doctor and health care team about your options (choices) if you need hospital care.**
- **Make sure you understand what will happen if you need surgery.**


<http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/5tipseng/5tips.htm>



## Examples of what Happens

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- Hospital acquired infections
- Bed sores
- Falls
- Medication errors
- English as Second Language



## Your Story

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- Contains crucial information
- May provide new knowledge
- Can create new models of practice
- Will identify limits to a multicultural, multilingual and multiethnic system
- Points out gaps in supports following adverse events.