

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE 101

WHAT IS MEDICAL MALPRACTICE?

Medical malpractice occurs when a medical professional - doctors, nurses, etc. - provide care that diverges from what is accepted as standard or reasonable care. Medical malpractice might mean that a doctor makes mistakes or acts in an unreasonable manner and causes a patient harm.

COMMON MEDICAL ERRORS

A Johns Hopkins study estimated that over 250,000 people die every single year due to medical error.

Misinterpreted Results/Directions
Misreading results or orders can lead to confusion and inappropriate medical care in a facility, or in the wrong treatment or medication being ordered for a patient.



Overworked Doctors/Understaffed Facilities
When a medical staff or facility is stretched thin in terms of capacity or time constraints, mistakes are more likely to happen.

Wrong Patient/Wrong Procedure
Sometimes medical professionals will mistake a patient's identity or order the wrong procedure, which can result in serious and potentially fatal medical mistakes.



Distracted or Inattentive Doctors
Whether too busy or simply not paying attention, a doctor is more likely to provide unreasonable and potentially harmful care to patients if they aren't focused on the task in front of them.



Communication Breakdowns
Lack of communication between departments, doctors, nurses or pharmacists can lead to serious breaches of care that can have disastrous results for patients.

Surgical Errors
Failure to recognize and treat surgical complications and misidentified patients and body parts are some examples of surgical error.



TYPES OF MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Anesthesia Errors
When using regional anesthesia, injuries can occur if the doctor negligently puts the needle directly into the nerve.



Medication Errors
Taking the wrong type of medication can lead to serious complications in a patient, in addition to leaving that patient without the medicine they need to treat their condition.

Birth Injuries
Brain damage, Cerebral Palsy, fractured bones, Erb's Palsy and breathing problems are some common forms of birth injury.



Nursing Home Injuries
There are many ways in which a person can suffer from nursing home abuse, including, neglect, bruises, sexual abuse, physical assault, verbal abuse, malnutrition, skin ulcers & dehydration.

WHAT MEDICAL MALPRACTICE MEANS FOR PATIENTS -

When a patient is subjected to medical error, the results can be catastrophic. That can mean:

- The worsening of a condition
- New injuries or illnesses due to malpractice
- Costly treatment to address injury or illness caused by malpractice
- Pain and suffering due to the malpractice
- Wrongful death

If you have been harmed, or if your loved one suffered injury or death, due to the mistakes of a medical professional or mistreatment in a medical facility

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