

FATAL MEDICAL ERRORS



MEDICAL ERRORS ARE THE **THIRD LEADING CAUSE** OF DEATH IN THE U.S.

Estimates of the number of annual deaths caused by medical error in the U.S. range from 250,000 to 440,000.

CAUSES OF FATAL MEDICAL MISTAKES



INADEQUATELY SKILLED OR UNDERTRAINED STAFF



ERRORS OR LAPSES IN JUDGMENT OR CARE (MISDIAGNOSIS, PRESCRIBING/ADMINISTERING THE WRONG MEDICATION, ETC.)



DEFECTS IN THE SYSTEM (COMPUTING ERRORS, COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWNS, ETC.)



PREVENTABLE ADVERSE EFFECTS (FAILURE TO MONITOR PATIENT AFTER ADMINISTERING A DRUG, FAILURE TO SANITIZE EQUIPMENT AND SURFACES, ETC.)

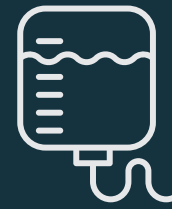
TYPES OF POTENTIALLY DEADLY MEDICAL MISTAKES

- MISDIAGNOSIS OF A SERIOUS ILLNESS
- SURGICAL ERRORS
- BIRTH-RELATED ERRORS
- FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE SIGNS OF STROKE
- MEDICATION ERRORS

ARE YOU AT RISK?



IN A RECENT STUDY, **ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE** PATIENTS SURVEYED REPORTED EXPERIENCING A MEDICAL ERROR.



20% OF PATIENTS WITH SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS ARE INITIALLY MISDIAGNOSED



NEARLY EVERY PATIENT WILL EXPERIENCE A **LATE OR INCORRECT DIAGNOSIS** AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIVES.

ERRORS AND MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

NOT ALL CASES OF MEDICAL ERROR ARE CONSIDERED MEDICAL MALPRACTICE. MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASES GENERALLY HAVE THESE **TWO FACTORS** IN COMMON...

- 1.** A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL FAILED TO ACT IN A MANNER THAT MEETS THE ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF CARE IN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY.
- 2.** A PATIENT SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT HARM BECAUSE OF THE PROFESSIONAL'S NEGLIGENCE.