Patient Safety: What is the Issue for Communities of Color

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Patient Safety

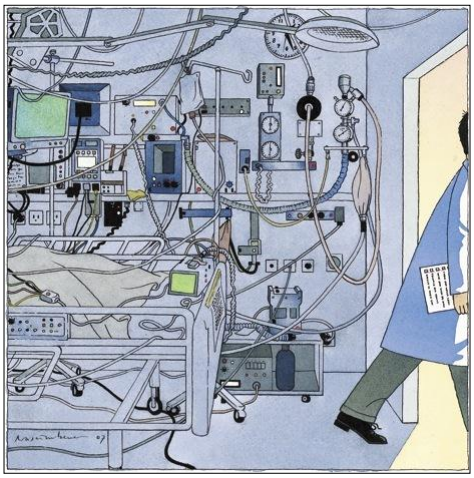
Freedom from accidental or preventable injuries produced by medical care.

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

- Goals
- Organizations
- Indicators
- Quality

Medical Errors: If you Google it

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

Sample Topics in the Literature

- 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; Shibei Zhao, MPH; Nancy R. Kressin, PhD; Amy K. Rosen, PhD)

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

- **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

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

Your Story

- 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.