



Why Are Hospitals Dangerous:

Money: Providers have little time to spend with their patients due to economic forces. IE: They don't get paid to spend time with you. They get paid to perform procedures, write prescriptions and conduct tests...whether the patient needs them or not.

Who cares? There aren't enough nurses to go around. In an effort to squeeze that bottom line, as few nurses as possible will be assigned to a shift.

Paper or plastic? It just doesn't pay to provide good health care. Carelessness leads to a longer hospitalizations, maybe even an extra procedure or two. Acquire an infection in a hospital? They will give you powerful and expensive antibiotics...and bill you for treating their mistake. Information technology is sorely lacking in medicine, the same technology we've had in place at your local grocery store for over 15 years to scan a jar of peanut butter isn't available in the care delivery system of your local hospital. Most medical errors are caused by things like sloppy handwriting, a missed decimal point, two patients with the same last name...or first name. Patient "A" getting patient "B's" surgery. Simple things like this.

Lack of accountability There's no oversight in America's health care system. Who is mandating safe staffing levels, acceptable infection rates, hours of service for medical students, accurate record-keeping, proper drug labeling, equipment service & sanitation, et al? The health care industry governs itself and therefore protects itself, its stockholders and its employees. **There is no agency that I have ever discovered that regulates your local hospital to ensure it is a safe environment for patients.**

Top Secret: Any hospital or physician complaints that find their way to the State Medical Board or the Joint Commission, et al, will never be revealed publicly. Only very limited information regarding physician licensing and discipline is available. The number of infection outbreaks, accidental deaths or injuries to patients, nurse-to-patient ratio's, information like this is not available to the public.

Where's CSI? When will the Department of Public Health be swabbing doorknobs for deadly MRSA in a hospital? They check for slime in restaurant ice machines! A dead body in a hospital garners no investigator with a badge. Any incident in a hospital that is questionable or suspicious to a consumer does not warrant an investigation by any agency. Said incident will be documented in the record as mandated by the **hospital's** risk management department, whether it's accurate or not is of concern to no-one. A consumer buying an automobile has more protection and rights than a consumer of health care (also known as a patient.)