



## “Navigating Medical Errors: An Examination of Scholarly Articles Through a Systematic Review to Determine the Psychological Repercussions of Healthcare Professionals' Participation in Such Errors”

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### *Abstract*

*Previous research has shown health workers as secondary victims of medical errors, and their involvement in such errors has been linked to a range of emotional and psychological consequences. The numbers 2 and 3 Due to the wide spectrum of emotional and psychological effects, the previous study has used inconsistent assessment variables and instruments. As a result, several conclusions have been drawn on the impact of errors on professionals and the subsequent repercussions for their team, patients, and the healthcare facility. An exhaustive evaluation was conducted on the problem. Data sources were identified through database searches, as well as by manual and extra reference research. Following the application of the eligibility criteria to all identified studies, a total of 24 studies were selected for the final analysis. A novel methodology was employed in this study to evaluate the caliber of the studies that were included. However, none of the studies were rejected on the basis of this criterion due to the limited quantity and heterogeneous nature of the included studies. Based on the review's findings, it may be concluded that there is continuing evidence of the extensive impact that medical errors have on medical workers. Alongside guilt and worry, negative psychological consequences encompass self-doubt and shame. Although much attention was devoted to examining the adverse consequences of errors, it is worth noting that mistakes could sometimes yield beneficial advantages, such as enhanced self-confidence, assertiveness, and camaraderie with colleagues. The involvement of a health practitioner in a medical error can clearly have a significant psychological impact. However, there is a lack of study on coping and support, as well as methodological mistakes and inconsistencies that should be addressed in future studies.*

**Keywords:** *Navigating Medical Errors, Examination of Scholarly Articles, Systematic Review, Determine the Psychological Repercussions, Healthcare Professionals' Participation in Such Errors*

### Introduction

It has been observed that those working in the healthcare sector experience a profound emotional response when they are engaged in mistakes. Although the consequences of medical errors on patients have been extensively recorded, only two assessments address the

repercussions of medical errors on professionals. Neither of these two approaches sufficiently addresses the presentation of studies on coping mechanisms or the long-term consequences that go beyond the initial mistake. However, it is crucial to discover the factors that mitigate the emotional impact of an error on an individual and to comprehend the immediate and long-term coping strategies employed by those who have made mistakes. Upon achieving this, it will become feasible to create efficient support systems capable of addressing the requirements of diverse persons and mitigating the psychological repercussions associated with making an error. Therefore, the subsequent study subjects were suggested for the aim of this publication:

1. What is the impact of being involved in a medical error on the health professional?
2. How do health professionals cope in the short and longer term when they have been involved in a medical error?
3. Are there any factors (referred to below as moderating factors) that influence the immediate response to error and/or the way in which individuals cope?

## **Methods**

### **Search identification and selection**

A variety of electronic platforms were searched using specific keywords related to attitudes about making mistakes and the corresponding responses. The resources utilized were the Cochrane Library, Science Direct, Web of Science, Medline from 1950 to 2009, PsychInfo from 1967 to 2009, Science Direct, and Embase from 1980 to 2009. Table 1 displays the outcomes of seven separate searches that were performed to acquire all pertinent information. An information scientist verified the comprehensiveness of the search method by ensuring that it included all pertinent articles. Only human studies written in English and published between 1980 and 2009 were included in all searches. The reference lists of all pertinent identified publications were individually searched. The Web of Science successfully retrieved sixteen of the indicated research papers, while four more papers from other databases, including PsychInfo 1980-2009, Science Direct, The Cochrane Library, Embase, and Medline/Pubmed, were also found. All the supplementary articles were identified by doing searches of reference lists.

### **Method of review and data extraction**

The Endnote tool was employed to streamline the references and eliminate any duplication. One reviewer, identified as RS, assessed each article to determine if it met the criteria for inclusion or

exclusion. After obtaining the entire texts of the papers that were kept, those papers were evaluated based on the eligibility criteria. The relevant information such as the investigator(s), publication date, study design, outcome measures, primary findings, and details about the emotional response and coping strategies after being involved in a medical error were extracted from each manuscript.

Furthermore, the data was obtained from the respective documents. Subsequently, the papers obtained were scrutinized by the second and third reviewers, RL and GA, to determine their eligibility based on the specified inclusion and exclusion criteria. Following a meticulous manual search, it was unanimously decided to include a grand total of twenty objects, along with an additional four pieces. Figure 1 depicts the factors that are not considered or excluded. Given the numerous variations in measurements and issues encountered during the investigation, conducting a meta-analysis of this dataset was not feasible. Consequently, the UK Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Coordinating Centre (EPPI) deemed the three-phase technique they employ to synthesize many research studies unsuitable for this specific case. A narrative empirical synthesis was formed by amalgamating the five results derived from each of the scrutinized investigations. This alternate EPPI approach has been employed in previous assessments that shared a similar nature. The ordinal number "sixth". To facilitate the development of topics and categories, we retrieved relevant material from each study that directly addressed our unique research questions.

### **Assessment of study quality**

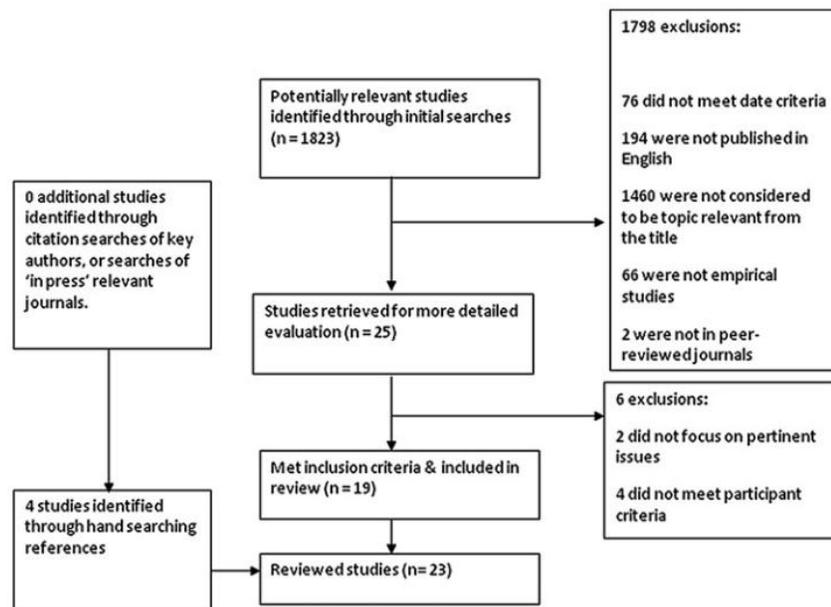
Assessing the reliability of the evidence obtained from qualitative and quantitative research proved to be a difficult undertaking. A set of seventeen criteria for assessing quality has been devised, drawing on previous methodologies, notably those developed by the EPPI-center (see to appendix 1 for additional details). The number is 7 multiplied by 10 raised to the power of 10. However, when the author team initially tried to apply these criteria through the involvement of different individuals, they encountered notable challenges.

Some challenges that were faced included the complexity of grading criteria using a binary scale, differences in how reviewers interpreted the criteria, important quality issues being left out in the analytical method and procedure, and the appropriateness of the wording for qualitative work. The lack of ability of dichotomous responses to differentiate between research

that sufficiently addressed a topic and research that did not sufficiently address it had an impact on the reliability of the inter-rater system. For example, the assessment of accurate and dependable results could entail more intricate statistical analysis, or it could be limited to face-validity testing.

Regarding certain criteria, such as the "Clear description of sample," important quality issues, such as the suitability of the sample size, were disregarded. Lastly, the list of criteria failed to adequately include the dependability of the analytical process in qualitative work, focusing solely on the validity of the outcomes. After seeking advice from specialists in the field (such as the York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination), we were unable to find a more advanced quality assessment metric. Consequently, the 17 criteria that were originally incorporated in the EPPI tool were modified for this study.

**Figure 1** Flow diagram of search and retrieval process.



Consequently, the studies were assessed using the revised criteria and given a rating of four points. The specific prerequisites for each score were explicitly defined in order to minimize the need for expert raters (see to appendix 2). By implementing this methodology, a quality rating was allocated to each document, resulting in an aggregate score for the entirety of the evidence. A single reviewer (RS) assessed all the studies based on the criteria. In a random sample of papers, there was a substantial level of agreement ( $k=67.8\%$ ) among the reviewers (RS, RL, and PG). Studies consistently received excellent scores for their descriptions of techniques, but they

consistently received low scores for criteria related to research design and justifications for the chosen measure(s). Measurements were often selected arbitrarily in cases when there was no clear theoretical basis or obvious preference for a specific measurement. There were questions about the validity of many research studies due to the lack of consideration for the adequacy of the sample size. Participants were seldom involved in the research's design, and revisions made based on pilot work did not incorporate participant comments. Please refer to appendix 3 for a comparison table of the different study types.

## **Results**

The electronic search yielded 1925 studies, and following the process described above, 24 studies were included in the review (see figure 1). The key characteristics of the reviewed papers are displayed in table 2.

### **Key findings Response and impact**

All the papers have consistently emphasized the presence of intense emotional anguish that occurs shortly after an error. This disorder encompasses emotions such as shame, guilt, worry, panic, shock, and humiliation. Furthermore, there were frequent observations of broader psychological impacts, including self-concern, diminished self-assurance, and modified attitudes towards interactions with patients and colleagues. The number is 13e17. The error had a pervasive effect on the situation. Worry, pessimism, and guilt are frequently encountered emotional states that can affect human experiences. Several adverse consequences can arise in one's professional standing at work, such as alienation from patients, a decline in positive regard and trust from patients, and a deterioration of one's professional reputation.

The numbers are 16, 22, and 15. Although usually mentioned in passing, few authors discussed successful results resulting from professional activity errors. For instance, mistakes made during the execution of tasks resulted in modifications to individual routines, corrective measures at the departmental level, and institution-wide endeavors, often involving improved interdepartmental communication. Moreover, these enhancements were applied throughout the entire facility. Adolescents between the ages of 17 and 23. Based on the results of a survey, 70% of the physicians in the sample said that their professional relationships saw a positive change after engaging in a discussion about an error. Additionally, they asserted that the enhanced communication that ensued following the mistake was attributed to a rise in assertiveness

within the work environment. The numbers 2525 and 25 are given. The impact of the error, the subsequent patient interactions, the team's attitude, and the institution's response all significantly influence the psychological response to the error. Poor patient outcomes were linked to increased mental distress and greater self-blame in these circumstances. This was consistently true irrespective of the conditions.

The sequence of numbers is 15-19-26-19. Additionally, it was demonstrated that there was a distinct correlation between the degree of error and the emotional reaction of the professional. Furthermore, there was an escalation in emotional burden when employees perceived that the organization handled mistakes in an inefficient manner.<sup>4</sup> Seventeen staff members alleged that they experienced uneven and at times confrontational reactions from managers and senior employees. The reactions encompassed methods such as questioning, assigning blame, and even issuing threats. The numbers are 14 and 27. Establishing and nurturing positive relationships with patients or obtaining robust support from colleagues following an error has a positive impact, enhancing the probability of a pleasant emotional outcome for the healthcare professional and boosting their self-assurance. Conversely, nurturing positive relationships with patients or others yielded a favorable outcome.<sup>15 to 16 years old</sup> The pattern of response is shown in the first three phases of a six-stage response and recovery trajectory. This pattern of behavior commences when the error is disclosed and persists until it impacts the individual's ongoing professional existence.

### **Coping and learning**

The final three phases of the rehabilitation trajectory outlined by Scott et al. involve discussing disclosure, professional consequences, seeking help, and the long-term impact on a person's healthcare career. Seventeen The results of this analysis suggest that a majority of studies have mostly examined attitudes and immediate reactions to errors, with only a few mentioning managements, coping strategies, or the long-term consequences of errors. However, the results of the coping study were consistent with each of the three categories. The available data suggests that there is insufficient structure and self-directed learning, as well as a lack of support for individuals following a mistake, in relation to the second research question. Seeking emotional support from close friends and family members was a typical practice.

However, it was also found to be advantageous to have in-depth discussions about the occurrence with coworkers. Starting at the age of 17, the person's age increased to 19 and then to 28. However, it was reported that the support offered in the workplace was inadequate and may potentially be harmful in certain instances. The sequence of numbers is 13, 14, 27, and 29. It has been found that the result of an error can potentially affect both the choice of coping strategy used after the error and the emotional response displayed. There was a direct correlation between the emotional distress caused by a negative consequence and the severity of the mistake, suggesting that dealing with the mistake became more challenging after it happened. Muller and Ornstein provided a demonstration of this.<sup>4</sup>

Crigger and Meek, however, noted that individuals had improved ability to manage problems when a negative event had taken place and was recognized, addressed, and resolved.<sup>30</sup> They argued that an unreported near-miss incident can have greater consequences since individuals may justify the occurrence to themselves, resulting in unresolved difficulties that can persist in the future. Although there has been limited discourse on data pertaining to near-misses, this information is crucial for the formulation of an effective learning strategy. Several cases were identified where the use of error reports was beneficial for team growth and to facilitate coping. The numerical values are 16, 17, 24, and 29. In the official discussion on error, Kroll et al. recognized the importance of constructive criticism as a crucial element in effectively using error as a teaching tool.<sup>16</sup> Scott et al.

emphasize a crucial contrast between "surviving" and "thriving" following an improper event. Although some persons may still function as expected despite being concerned about the occurrence of errors, there are others who may improve their performance by intentionally striving to increase their practices after experiencing a negative clinical outcome.<sup>17</sup> Furthermore, it was emphasized the significance of handling faults in trainee samples appropriately, which entails avoiding punitive actions or negative behavior throughout the process. Individuals between the ages of 21 and 31 Wolf et al. discovered that insufficient error management resulted in decreased learning and a deterioration of future coping skills. The number 27 is a prime number.

**Attitudes in the context of culture**

The function of culture in the healthcare business is crucial in shaping and upholding attitudes towards errors, which are vital for error management throughout all levels of the organization. The process of socializing individuals during their medical training has been the focus of several articles as a result of this.<sup>9</sup> The concept of internal accountability and infallibility was proposed to be a major cause of medical trainees experiencing substantial levels of self-doubt and guilt. The range is from 18 to 31. Qualitative research revealed other key elements that influenced attitudes towards errors in a similar fashion. The considerations encompassed the potential for legal repercussions, past instances of mistakes, and the influence of hierarchical systems within the work environment. Lower-level employees often received unfavorable comments from their superiors when they revealed their weaknesses, and senior colleagues actively discouraged them from doing so.<sup>27, 31, a</sup> There seems to be a correlation between these negative emotions and a dread of legal consequences, as well as a dedication to uphold professional loyalty.

Specialists highly recommended against discussing blunders, since it could result in disciplinary action and harm relationships with coworkers.<sup>a</sup> The time is 17:32 to 17:33. The presence of this type of fear was recognized as a major obstacle that hindered both the discussion and the reporting of errors. Conversely, Waterman and colleagues found that a significant majority (ninety percent) of medical professionals lacked sufficient support, as their peers chose to ignore their mistakes. There are a total of 13. However, it was shown that having colleagues who provide assistance was beneficial in the process of recovering from an error. This discovery is intriguing.<sup>32:</sup> The information presented here indicates that coworker interactions, attitudes, and culture may have a major impact.

However, there is a scarcity of research that specifically examine the elements that impact the ability of staff members to handle the aftermath of a mistake.

#### **Moderating factors and implications for practice**

The degree to which the response to errors differs based on the clinical situation and professional affiliation is not clearly understood. Hospital settings exhibit a significantly greater amount of research output in comparison to primary care settings. The value is 16.1. Despite the inclusion of a sample from both care settings in the following trials, no effort was made to compare these two groups of respondents. The scarcity of information on the experiences of individuals working in primary care settings has implications for the handling of errors that

arise in such settings. The professional groups exhibited distinct disparities in the kind of study and responses. Notably, studies pertaining to nurses predominantly adopted a qualitative approach, focusing on exploring emotions, feelings, and the implications of committing errors. It is noteworthy that a greater proportion of studies have concentrated on samples of trainee or experienced physicians, as opposed to the number of studies that have focused on nurses. When nurses made an error, they replied with careful caution, taking into account how the incidents affected their self-perception and their competence in carrying out their duties. The coordinates (26, 30) In addition, nurse samples often expressed a strong feeling of personal responsibility for errors and a commitment to reporting them, even if there was a higher risk of facing consequences for their actions. The importance of individual responsibility was also highlighted.

The sequence of numbers is 14, 24, 26, and 30. The research conducted with trainee samples emphasized the importance of the learning component associated with making mistakes, particularly in relation to therapeutic results and practice change. These studies also emphasized the alteration of practice. The numbers are 16, 19, 31, and 34. Research that specifically examined adverse events, which are the most notable or serious mistakes, were restricted to samples of physicians. Consequently, there was increased focus on the necessary steps to address the clinical consequences of the mistake and the resulting professional consequences. The sequence of numbers is 15, 22, 29, 32, and 35. Comparing the emotional responses of these distinct professional groups is challenging due to the major differences in the study objectives provided for each group. The efforts to utilize current knowledge about the consequences of mistakes to guide change are the ones impacted by this.

### **Discussion**

This review is the first to adopt a methodical and organized approach in order to determine the present condition of research on the attitudes, responses, and coping methods of health professionals who commit errors. A total of twenty-three research conducted in various healthcare settings were examined.

### **Key findings**

There is a lack of comprehension of the percentage of people who experience suffering due to making a mistake, as well as the connection between the seriousness of the error and the level of anguish they endure. Conversely, research has indicated that following an error, individuals



commonly experience a variety of emotions, such as embarrassment, regret, worry, apprehension, self-questioning, and sadness. An error might potentially have a negative impact on an individual's reputation, self-assurance, and relationships with patients and colleagues, both personally and professionally. The numbers are 13, 15, 17, and 35. The management of errors and the appropriate response to them are both influenced by attitudes that are shaped and upheld by the culture within the medical profession. As a result, institutions often report issues that are not properly addressed and receive minimal assistance from the government.<sup>4</sup> Numerals The numbers provided are 16, 18, 27, and 31. It is important to mention that, although peer support is crucial for the recovery of both individuals and teams, there is a lack of incentive to provide colleagues with this type of aid when they make an error.

There are a total of 13. The recovery trajectory developed by Scott et al. encompasses six stages and is based on the key findings of this review. Furthermore, it promotes the need for extensive study to pave the way for the development of institutional support. The number is 17. Despite the increasing amount of research, numerous unresolved questions remain. There is currently a shortage of understanding regarding the realms of official and informal support networks, coping mechanisms, and longer-term professional outcomes. Furthermore, there are deficiencies in understanding pertaining to these domains. To optimize the efficacy of therapies, it is imperative to engage in further discussions regarding suitable coping strategies.

No research has been undertaken explicitly on the potential moderators of the emotional reaction. These modifiers may encompass factors such as the magnitude of the error, interconnections among colleagues, the organizational culture, and individual traits such as personality. These elements may have a substantial influence on the conditions under which receiving help would be advantageous. Moreover, they can also function as a means of notifying patients and healthcare institutions of the situations in which mistakes could have the most significant consequences. The potential beneficial emotional impacts of errors, which might facilitate the utilization of mistakes for personal development and acquiring knowledge, have been relatively overlooked compared to the extensive research conducted on the adverse effects of mistakes. Mistakes have been demonstrated to have adverse effects.

**Methodological limitations of reviewed papers**

The extensive range of assessment instruments in the review offers potential benefits by allowing for the evaluation of a diverse range of outcomes. However, this also poses challenges in comparing the results of different research simultaneously. Quantitative studies employ different instruments to assess attitudes and emotional responses, resulting in variations across each study. Similarly, routinely used assessments for overall health or mental well-being, such as the Beck Depression Inventory or the General Health Questionnaire, are not available. Thirty-six The number 37 is subtracted from. Many research studies rely on survey methods, which may not be adequate for studying intense emotional responses that are thought to be very strong. Given that 21 out of the 23-research utilized cross-sectional data, it becomes challenging to distinguish causation from correlation.

Consequently, the long-term effects of the error are also disregarded. The latter may be crucial in error management. Given that self-reports are used to assess the extent of errors, the findings reached about the correlation between error severity and an individual's emotional response are dubious. The numbers are 19 and 26. One study used a substantial sample consisting of individuals from several fields, despite variations in the types of employment, specializations, and medical socialization being examined. This leads to a last concern. The number 27 is a prime number. Many additional studies, sometimes based on tiny sample sizes, focus exclusively on a certain population, such as medical trainees, nurses, and physicians. Consequently, it is extremely challenging to make broad conclusions that incorporate the study's findings and extend beyond each specific group being sampled.

#### **Methodological weaknesses of review**

It is conceivable that the search approach failed to discover all of the pertinent studies. Firstly, this is the initial aspect to contemplate. However, the collaboration with an information scientist to develop search keywords and choose databases effectively reduced the likelihood of this occurrence. The issue of publication bias, however, implies that significant negative findings from unpublished research may have been disregarded, despite the use of a very effective search method. Furthermore, there is evidence indicating that the specific topic being searched has an impact on the sensitivity and accuracy of bibliographic databases, potentially influencing the quantity of publications retrieved.<sup>38</sup> - Although the evaluation of database search efficiency in finding publications on patient safety is ongoing, it is likely that some papers may be overlooked

due to the availability of other scholarly inquiries on health.<sup>38 - 39</sup>; In order to resolve this issue, it was imperative to conduct more manual searches in conjunction with utilizing other databases.

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