



# Spotlight On Justice



## NEW STUDIES SHOW: PATIENT SAFETY STILL SUFFERING

How much more evidence do we need that medical malpractice is still at epidemic proportions in U.S. hospitals?

- Two news studies show that arrogance by doctors results in preventable errors, with 18 percent of health care workers saying they knew of a mistake that occurred because of an “obnoxious doctor” and 40 percent saying they were “so intimidated by a doctor that they did not share their concerns about orders for medication that appeared to be incorrect.”
- A National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (IOM) study shows that sleep-deprived medical residents tend to make more mistakes, and recommends shorter shifts and mandatory sleep breaks. (Notably, one doctor called the IOM's recommendations “nuts.”)
- And the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that there are more than 2 million hospital infections causing about 90,000 deaths each year.



Sleep, are you nuts?!

*Source:*

Mary Engel, “Report urges more sleep for medical residents, Doctors in training should work no longer than 16 hours in a row without a five-hour nap to reduce risk to patients, according to the Institute of Medicine,” *Los Angeles Times*, December 3, 2008; Laurie Tarkan, “Arrogant, Abusive and Disruptive -- and a Doctor,” *New York Times*, December 1, 2008; Sylvia Hsieh, *Dolan Media Newswires*, November 30, 2008.

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