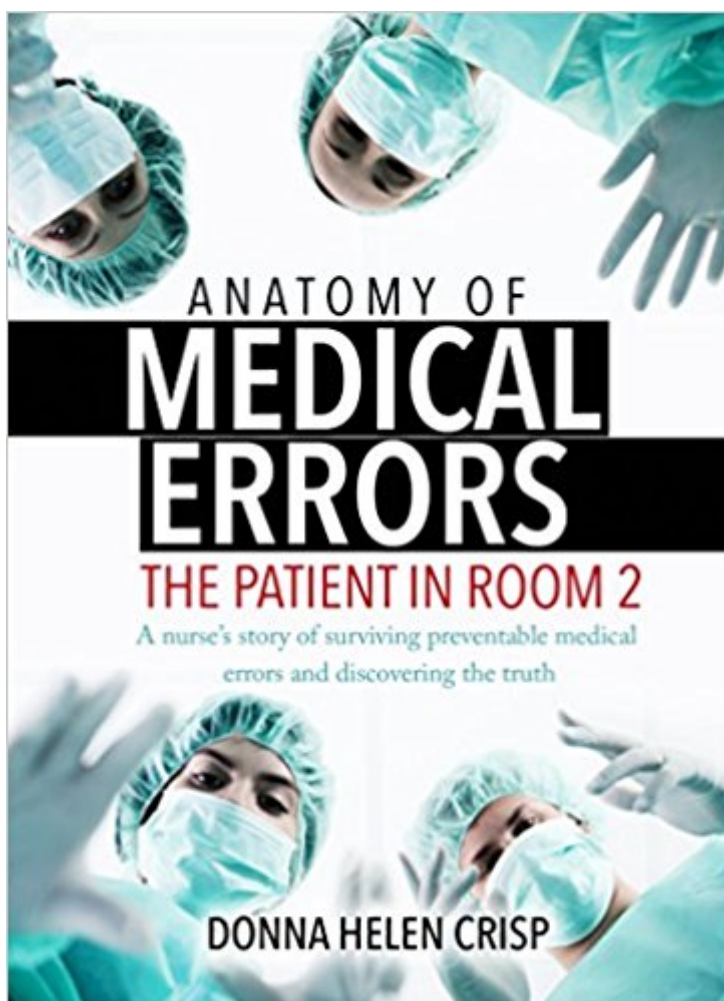


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# Anatomy Of Medical Errors: The Patient In Room 2



## Synopsis

A surgeon unknowingly damages the intestines of a nurse expecting only an overnight stay after surgery, beginning a chain of more tragic and preventable errors. The consequences result in the nurse spending several weeks on an ICU ventilator in a drug-induced coma, having four additional surgeries, and requiring a pump to drain the raging infection from her open abdomen. As she awakens and tries to come to terms with what happened to her, she realizes the hospital and doctors will never tell her the whole truth; she has to find out what went wrong on her own. In order to heal, she determines to write and share her story so others may learn how infections, adverse events, and medical errors occur frequently in hospitals, sometimes resulting in death. More than a narrative, *Anatomy of Medical Errors: The Patient in Room 2* shines light on the dysfunction that underpins many hospital organizations, especially teaching hospitals, including silencing of the patient, provider arrogance, flawed coordination of care, poor communication, and lack of ownership for outcomes. Forever changed by the experience, author Donna Helen Crisp uses her struggles to teach nurses, doctors, and other healthcare professionals how to prevent or avoid potentially dangerous situations, recognize warning signs, and work collaboratively to provide transparent patient care. This book provides an ethical and critical thought process framework for care providers and others through a compelling story about hospital culture. Readers who want to understand how delivery of care works in fast-paced and complex healthcare environments will come away engaged and informed.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Donna Helen Crisp, JD, MSN, RN, PMHCNS-BC, became a nurse in 1992 after working in social work, law, and music. After earning her BSN and MSN degrees, she became a mental health Clinical Nurse Specialist in adult psychiatry. She has worked with clients of all ages in various hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, homes, and private practice. Whether in the role of staff nurse, supervisor, administrator, consultant, or teacher, her nursing practice of care focuses on the person's suffering. After teaching in the community college system for five years, Donna Helen became an assistant professor at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing, where she taught for six years in the undergraduate and graduate programs. Her nursing research has focused on chronic illness, suffering, quality of life, advance directives, ethical decision-making, and forgiveness. She has taught on these topics at numerous conferences. Her abiding passion continues to focus on the recognition and amelioration of suffering, wherever it exists. She currently lives in Asheville, North Carolina, where she works as a nurse and writes about nursing.

Having worked as a Utilization Review Coordinator in a for profit psychiatric and substance abuse hospital, I am well aware that many mistakes are made. I am also well aware that when these mistakes are reported to the administration and the medical staff, nothing happens, they don't want to know. Doctors see their patients every day but for some that means they talk to patients for less than 3 minutes and that's it. Administrators continue to control costs by eliminating nurses, technicians, maintenance, housekeeping and other staffing. When staffing is so low, it is impossible to avoid mistakes and errors of omission. Let's try a single payor plan so that the goal is not making money for the stockholders but helping people who are sick. This is a wonderful book and unfortunately extremely representative of what I have seen in my work.

As a nurse, I empathize with the author. I have called associates on the carpet, although none has been my primary care provider. I might have asked if a clinical case conference could be held as a learning experience...of course, only if I were able to attend. Unfortunately, this will become more common with the squeeze on medical care, procedures, pharmacopeia, and the use of outside venues for "minor surgical procedures."

I couldn't put it down. The author took me on a trip that I hope never to experience outside of my imagination, but it seems the odds are frighteningly high that I could. It's neither "chicken soup for the soul" nor a diatribe, but it is survivor's tale. If the circle of your life intersects with our health care

system at any point : student, patient, healer, administrator, this book will do much to steer towards what we all want health care to be and away from the third leading cause of death. You will be given the opportunity to relate to suffering in a way that points towards solutions to the institutional business model's failings within our collective fundamental sense of humanity. Healers and patients want to be on the same side. Give it a chance. Here are the directions. The path is in this very well written, clear and compelling book. kudos to the author. Brona Hicks

The author perseveres after enduring risky medical procedures resulting in multiple surgical blunders. She escapes death determined to share her experience. Hardened by the insults to her body, her spirit is unbroken. She must inform people about the unintended adverse consequences of surgery. Consider her words carefully. If you were the patient, what information would you want to know? Avoidable medical consequences should not be dismissed as patient bad luck. Patients need to be better advised and provided with the information they need to make informed choices about their medical risks. The first corrective step must be recognizing and changing a medical culture of silence and entrenched arrogance. ~~~~~ "Am I in earth, in heaven, or in hell? Sleeping or waking, mad or well-advised? ~~~~~ "William Shakespeare, The Comedy of Errors

This is a book that every healthcare worker should read and that every student of a healthcare profession should be required to read in their training. Also, lay people would do themselves a favor by reading this so that they can prepare themselves in the event their hospital stay turns out to be something they were not expecting. I can't say enough good things about this book. The author bravely takes the reader through her tragic events and shows us that we need to have an advocate with us, at all times, even if we are healthcare professionals ourselves. This was particularly relevant to my practice as a nurse patient advocate. This book will stay in my library.

The author has written a brave book, compellingly written and fiercely honest. She shares her frightening experience to highlight that medical errors are our country's third leading cause of death--a fate she narrowly escaped while in careless medical care. It's the story of a survivor whose ultimate healing continues as she advocates for patients' rights--and challenges corporate healthcare to be transparent and truly compassionate. A very important, brave book indeed.

Excellent. Would use this seller again.

Both a frightening and enthralling personal look at what can and has happened in our medical system. A must read for everyone (all of us?) who might one day find ourselves facing a comparable situation.

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