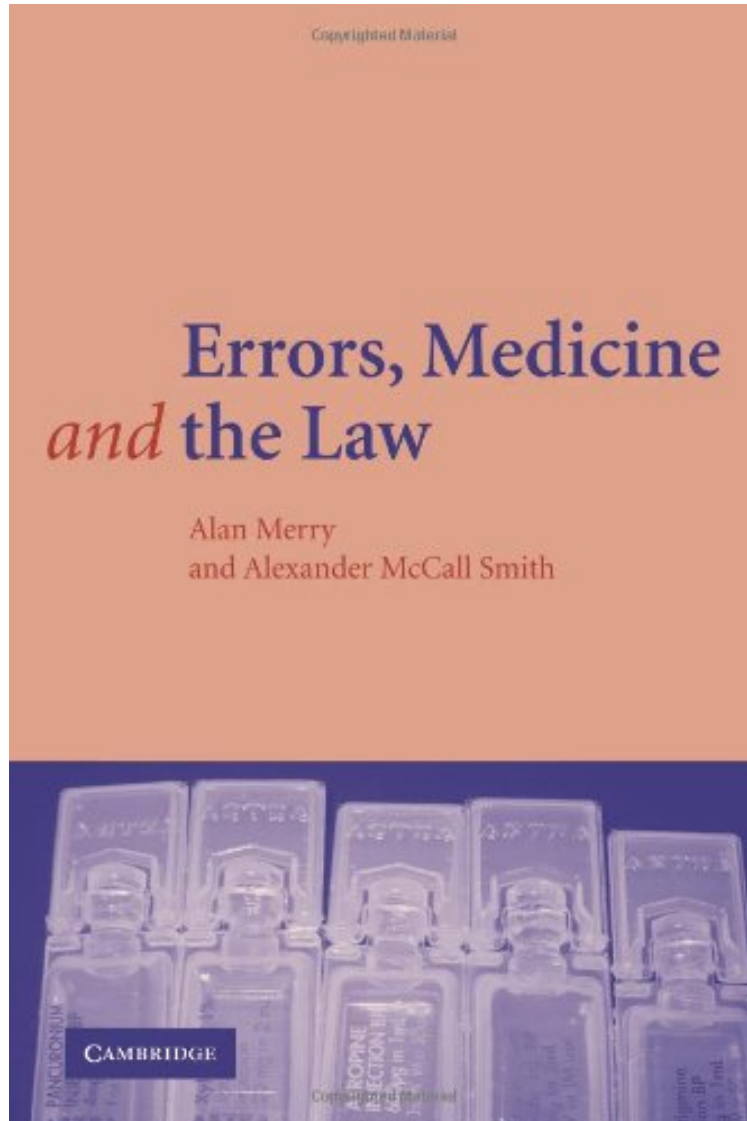


[Download free pdf] Errors, Medicine and the Law

Errors, Medicine and the Law

Alan Merry, Alexander McCall Smith

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#4038430 in Books 2001-08-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.98 x .75 x 5.98l, .94 #File Name: 0521000882264 pages | File size: 65.Mb

Alan Merry, Alexander McCall Smith : Errors, Medicine and the Law before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Errors, Medicine and the Law:

17 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Getting real about medical errorBy C. S. WebsterWhen someone is hurt during medical treatment it is an understandable reaction to blame the doctor for the harm. However, the great majority of errors which occur in medicine are a simple consequence of conscientious doctors being fallible human beings just like the rest of us. Hospital systems are generally full of design faults which pre-dispose doctors to make

mistakes. Blaming doctors for simply being human directs attention away from these design faults, reduces the chance that system improvements will be made, and makes it likely that the same error will repeat itself in the future - thus perpetuating patient harm. Human error cannot be avoided, but patient harm can, through better systems and procedures. Genuinely negligent acts do occur in medicine, but it is important that these are distinguished from the inevitable human errors of clinicians doing their best. This is a distinction which is also required in law to ensure fairness in both the prosecution of negligent doctors and the compensation of harmed patients. This book goes several steps beyond the Institute of Medicine Report ("To Err is Human") in identifying the mechanisms and nature of error within health care and in its detailed discussion of the intricacies of culpability, blame, violation, error, legal fairness, and patient safety.

Merry and McCall-Smith question the understandable, but often inappropriate, tendency to blame individuals for medical errors. They point out that the goal of safety is far better served by a sophisticated understanding of the difference between negligence and inevitable error, and by a frank recognition of just why human error occurs and how things go wrong in any complex system. Although medicine is used as the book's primary example, the points made apply equally to aviation, industrial activities, and many other fields of human endeavour.

"A comprehensive exploration of the science of errors applied to healthcare..." *Journal of Perinatal Neonatal Nursing*
About the Author Alan Merry is a practising cardiac anaesthetist, whose research focuses on safety, and in particular, on reducing error, in anaesthesia. He was the co-founder and co-chair of the New Zealand Medical Law Reform Group, which contributed to the passing of the Crimes Amendment Act 1997 which redefined the threshold for criminal prosecution arising from negligently caused harm in New Zealand. He is author of a number of papers in medical and legal journals. He has developed a computer-based systems approach to reducing drug administration in anaesthesia (the IDAS) which applies many of the principles discussed in this book, and which is in use in several Auckland hospitals. Alexander McCall Smith has been involved in medico-legal issues for more than twenty years. He has lectured on the subject at universities throughout the world. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Human Genetics Commission of the United Kingdom, a member of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO, and the Chairman of the Ethics Committee of the British Medical Journal. He is the author of a number of books in the areas of medical law and criminal law, including *Law and Medical Ethics*, 6th edition (with J. K. Mason and G. T. Laurie, 2002).