

NR584 Week 3 - Collaboration Café

Healthcare Errors

1. Do you recommend criminalizing healthcare errors as an effective approach to holding healthcare providers accountable for their mistakes? Why or why not?

I do not recommend criminalizing healthcare errors as an effective approach to holding healthcare providers accountable, as most errors result from system failures or unintentional mistakes. To strengthen healthcare systems and prevent future failures, it is essential that providers feel comfortable reporting incidents involving patients and clinical practices. Promoting a “just culture” encourages individuals to come forward by focusing on system failures and inadequate processes rather than placing sole blame on the individual. However, there should be an exception in which criminal charges are considered if errors occur due to intentional harm or reckless behavior.

2. How can healthcare providers balance the goal of high-quality care with the potential risks and consequences of errors?

The primary goal of healthcare providers is to deliver high-quality care to all patients. To minimize the risks and consequences of errors, providers must maintain up-to-date clinical knowledge and consistently apply evidence-based practices. Ongoing training and education are essential for promoting workplace safety and reducing the likelihood of unintentional errors or sentinel events. By adhering to established guidelines and avoiding shortcuts in protocols, healthcare providers can enhance the quality of care and decrease the occurrence of preventable errors.

3. Are current legal and regulatory frameworks adequate to address healthcare errors? If so, why? If not, what changes are necessary to ensure the regulations best serve clients and providers?

Current legal and regulatory frameworks are inadequate to effectively address healthcare errors. In malpractice cases, judges and juries, rather than healthcare experts, often determine what is “reasonable care” for patients (Aaron et al., 2025). As a result, individuals without specialized clinical knowledge may make decisions that set legal precedents, which may not accurately reflect evidence-based guidelines or promote patient safety. Consequently, these legal outcomes may fail to support improvements in healthcare quality and safety. To better serve both patients and providers,