# Article #1

# **Cardiology and Cardiovascular Professional Societies and Associations**

If you are a medical professional who works in the field of cardiology or cardiovascular health, or if you are interested in working in the field of cardiology, these societies and professional associations could be an excellent resource for you.

These societies encompass just about any type of professional who works in the cardiology field including nurses, technologists, and physicians such as cardiologists and cardiac surgeons. The societies provide journals, continuing medical education (CME) credits, certifications, and a variety of other benefits.

## **[The American Heart Association (AHA)](http://www.americanheart.org/)**Cardiologist with heart

Peter Dazeley/Photographer's Choice/Getty Images The American Heart Association is the "grand-daddy" of all cardiology-related associations. Most cardiology professionals are involved with the AHA in some way. The AHA provides an enormous amount of patient education and awareness for the general public regarding heart disease. For medical professionals, the AHA provides educational information and materials, as well as a certification in Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC). [More](http://www.americanheart.org/)

## **[American College of Cardiology](http://www.acc.org/)**

The American College of Cardiology consists of doctors and nurses primarily. The ACC provides practice management tips, education, advocacy, and annual conferences. To provide more specialized information, education and networking, the ACC formed several "communities" within the larger organization, including Women in Cardiology, Pediatric Cardiology, Cardiac Care Team, and others. [More](http://www.acc.org/)

## **[Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA)](http://www.hfsa.org/)**

According to the HFSA website, this society "represents the first organized effort by heart failure experts from the Americas to provide a forum for all those interested in heart function, heart failure, and congestive heart failure (CHF) research and patient care." [More](http://www.hfsa.org/)

## **[American Society of Echocardiography (ASE)](http://www.asecho.org/)**

The motto of the American Society of Echocardiography is "an exceptional view of your heart and circulation for a healthier life." ASE provides products and resources for cardiology professionals, as well as educational information for the general public and patients. [More](http://www.asecho.org/)

## **[Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals (ACVP)](http://www.acp-online.org/)**

According to the ACVP website, this association consists of "over 3000 professionals involved in all levels of cardiovascular service (administration, management, nursing and technology), and involved in all specialties (invasive, noninvasive, echo, cardiopulmonary)." [More](http://www.acp-online.org/)

## **[American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP)](http://www.chestnet.org/)**

This organization consists of cardiologists and pulmonologists, as well as some oncologists, surgeons, and a few other types of physician specialists. According to the ACCP website, their motto is: "Improving patient care through education."

The vision of the ACCP is to be "the leading resource for the improvement in cardiopulmonary health and critical care worldwide." Additionally, the mission of the ACCP is "To promote the prevention and treatment of diseases of the chest through leadership, education, research, and communication." [More](http://www.chestnet.org/)

## **[Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals (SICP)](http://www.sicp.com/)**

According to the society website, the SICP is "committed to providing educational and networking opportunities to all members and cardiovascular professionals." Invasive cardiovascular professionals are the physicians and their assistants who work in a cardiac cath lab, conducting heart catheterizations to diagnose and treat blockages. [More](http://www.sicp.com/)

## **[Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI)](http://www.cci-online.org/)**

According to their website, CCI was formed in 1988, "for the sole purpose of administering credentialing examinations as an independent credentialing agency." Several organizations merged to form CCI, including the National Alliance of Cardiovascular Technologists (NACT), the American Cardiology Technologists Association (ACTA) and the National Board of Cardiovascular Testing (NBCVT).[More](http://www.cci-online.org/)

## **[American Society of Hypertension (ASH)](http://www.ash-us.org/)**

The American Society of Hypertension states "ASH is the largest US organization dedicated exclusively to hypertension and related cardiovascular disease." This includes all aspects of research, diagnosis, and treatment of hypertension (high blood pressure) and related cardiovascular diseases. [More](http://www.ash-us.org/)

## **[International Academy of Cardiology (IAC)](http://www.cardiologyonline.com/)**

The IAC "is dedicated to the advancement of global research in cardiovascular medicine through the support of scientific meetings and publications," according to their website. [More](http://www.cardiologyonline.com/)

## **[International Society for Heart Research (ISHR)](http://www.usouthal.edu/ishr)**

The mission of the ISHR is simple: "To promote the discovery and dissemination of knowledge in the cardiovascular sciences on a worldwide basis through publications, congresses and other media," according to the society's website. [More](http://www.usouthal.edu/ishr)

## **[Society of Geriatric Cardiology](http://www.sgcard.org/)**

The SGC caters to those health care professionals who treat heart patients over the age of 65. Founded in 1986 by cardiologists, the SGC works closely with other professional medical associations to provide educational and informational events and publications. [More](http://www.sgcard.org/)

## **[American College of Cardiovascular Administrators (ACCA)](http://www.aameda.org/Colleges/ACCA/cardiology.html)**

The ACCA is part of the American Academy of Medical Administrators. Specific to the cardiovascular administration field, the ACCA offers an annual Conference, a Fellow designation (FACCA), an annual Award of Excellence, and a number of cardiovascular-specific webinars, according to Sue Eget, Director of Membership and Communication. [More](http://www.aameda.org/Colleges/ACCA/cardiology.html)

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Article #2

# **Medical Malpractice: Common Errors by Doctors and Hospitals**

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## **What kinds of health care mistakes are behind most medical malpractice lawsuits?**

## Medical malpractice cases arise when a patient is harmed by a doctor or nurse (or other medical professional) who fails to provide proper health care treatment. Fortunately, doctors, nurses, and hospitals make mistakes in a small number of cases. But within that small minority of cases, certain types of errors crop up more often than others. Read on to learn about the doctor and hospital mistakes that make up the bulk of medical malpractice lawsuits.

A word of caution on the types of medical errors described below: Keep in mind that just because a doctor made a mistake or a patient was unhappy with a course of treatment or its outcome, that doesn't mean malpractice necessarily occurred. In order to meet the legal definition of medical malpractice, the doctor or medical provider must have been negligent in some way -- meaning the doctor was not reasonably skillful or competent, and that incompetence harmed the patient. (To learn more about what does and does not constitute medical malpractice, see Nolo's article [Medical Malpractice Basics](https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/medical-malpractice-basics-29855.html).)

### **Misdiagnosis or Delayed Diagnosis**

Misdiagnosis and delayed diagnosis account for a large percentage of medical malpractice complaints. When a doctor misdiagnoses a condition (or fails to diagnose a serious disease for some time), the patient might miss treatment opportunities that could have prevented serious harm or even death.

The key in proving a medical malpractice claim based on misdiagnosis or delayed diagnosis is to compare what the treating doctor did (or didn't do) to how other competent doctors within the same speciality would have handled the case. If a reasonably skillful and competent doctor under the same circumstances would not have made the diagnostic error, then the treating doctor may be liable for malpractice. (To learn more about proving a misdiagnosis claim, see Nolo's article [Medical Malpractice: Misdiagnosis and Delayed Diagnosis](https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/medical-malpractice-misdiagnosis-delayed-diagnosis-32288.html).)

### **Childbirth Injuries**

A number of fetal injuries can be caused by medical malpractice, including brain injuries (such as cerebral palsy and seizure disorders), fractured bones, and erb's and klumpke's palsy (damage to nerves that control the arms and hands). However, keep in mind that these injuries are more often caused by something other than medical malpractice.

A physician or obstetrician's negligence can happen during childbirth or long before.

**Negligent prenatal care**.

If negligent medical treatment is provided during the pregnancy, it could harm the fetus or the mother (or both). Some examples of negligent prenatal care include the physician or obstetrician:

* failure to diagnose a medical condition of the mother, such as preeclampsia, Rh incompatibility, hypoglycemia, anemia, or gestational diabetes
* failure to identify birth defects
* failure to identify ectopic pregnancies, or
* failure to diagnose a disease that could be contagious to the mother's fetus (such as genital herpes or neonatal lupus).

**Negligence during childbirth.**

A doctor's negligence during childbirth could cause injury to the baby and harm to the mother. Common medical errors during childbirth include the physician or obstetrician's:

* failure to anticipate birth complications due to the baby's large size or because the umbilical cord got tangled
* failure to respond to signs of fetal distress
* failure to order a cesarean section when one was appropriate, or
* incompetent use of forceps or a vacuum extractor.

(To learn more about birth injuries, see Nolo's article [Birth-Related Medical Malpractice](https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/birth-related-medical-malpractice-30150.html).)

### **Medication Errors**

According to a 2006 study, medication errors harm approximately 1.5 million people in the United States every year. Medication errors can occur many ways -- from the initial prescription to the administration of the drug. For example, a patient might be harmed if the doctor prescribes the wrong medication. Or the patient might be harmed by medication that the doctor prescribes to treat a misdiagnosed condition. In a hospital setting, the right drug might be given to the wrong patient.

However, by far the most common medication errors involve dosage -- the patient gets too much or too little of a drug. This can happen several ways:

* The doctor writes an incorrect dosage on the prescription.
* The prescription is correct, but the nurse administers the incorrect amount.
* Equipment that administers the drug malfunctions, causing a large dose of medication to be administered over a short period of time. For example, this can happen when a defibrillator has a dead battery or an intravenous pump has a dislodged valve.

### **Anesthesia Errors**

Anesthesia mistakes are usually more dangerous than surgery mistakes. Even a small error by the anesthesiologist can result in permanent injury, brain damage, or even death. An anesthesiologist can commit medical malpractice even before anesthesia is administered by:

* failing to investigate the patient's medical history for possible complications, or
* failing to inform the patient of the risks involved if preoperative instructions aren't followed (like not eating for a certain period of time prior to surgery).

Anesthesia errors that can occur during surgery include:

* giving too much anesthesia to the patient
* failing to monitor the patient's vital signs
* improperly intubating patients (putting a tube in the trachea to assist with breathing), or
* using defective equipment.

### **Surgery Errors**

Some medical malpractice claims arise from mistakes made in the operating room. A surgeon might be negligent during the operation itself (puncturing internal organs, operating on the wrong body part, or leaving surgical instruments in the body) or the nursing staff might be negligent in administering post-op care (which could result in complications like serious infection).

### **Getting Help with a Medical Malpractice Case**

Medical malpractice cases are regulated by complex rules that can vary considerably from state to state, so it's often essential to get advice or representation from a lawyer who has experience handling medical malpractice lawsuits.

For help on choosing a good medical malpractice attorney, read Nolo's article [Finding a Personal Injury Lawyer](https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/finding-personal-injury-lawyer-29840.html).you can go to Nolo's [Lawyer Directory for a list of medical malpractice attorneys](https://www.nolo.com/ldir/browsebyresults.do?specialtyId=51&specialtyName=Medical%20Malpractice&locationId=&searchNear=) near you (click the "Types of Cases" and "Work History" tabs to learn about a particular lawyer's experience, if any, with medical malpractice claims).

**Research Assessment #6**

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**Subject:** Cardiology

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“Cardiology &Amp; Cardiovascular Societies and Associations.” The Balance, <https://www.thebalance.com/cardiology-and-cardiovascular-societies-1736315>.

Michon, J.D. by Kathleen. “Medical Malpractice: Common Errors by Doctors and Hospitals | Nolo.com.” Nolo.com, <https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/medical-malpractice-common-errors-doctors-hospitals-32289.html>.

**Assessment:**

Due to the known high demanding nature of cardiology, one of America’s most needed jobs,  it is important to know that there are certain people or organizations that will benefit me in my work and life. Many professionals are affiliated to an ample amount of organizations. These professional organizations aid doctors in any means through education, certification, networking, and more. Additionally, malpractice is a somewhat frightening aspect of the life of a doctor and can ruin a person’s reputation and career; however, with the aid of a lawyer for advice will help doctors understand the reasons of the supposed issue. From the web articles I researched, I had gathered that the I must be involved in more things other than the clinic I work at to learn more about my surroundings and better myself in the future.

The first article I researched, “Cardiovascular Societies and Associations”, explained the various organizations a doctor can be a part of. I have realized that cardiologists need to continue to study even after they are established. Through the guidance of the organizations, it will allow me to complete my hours of required education, “provide journals, continuing medical education (CME) credits, certifications, and a variety of other benefits”. Examples of organizations I may consider joining in the future include American Heart Association (AHA) and American College of Cardiology (ACC). AHA will allow me to get more experience regarding the patient awareness in heart oriented conditions. This is a part of the job description of a cardiologist, so being in the organization will benefit me to rightly treat patients. I will make sure to join this in the future. Additionally ACC will allow to me to truly focus on a specialty I am interested at the time where I am practicing cardiology. This will benefit me in having a network of people willing to help me in my practice. There are also administration oriented programs as well, where I can gain knowledge from other doctors as to how they attack obstacles regarding business. I must know how to run a business to run a practice. However it has many opportunities as well. All in all, these programs are beneficial to learn from and at the same time gain recognition for. I will definitely join some organizations in the future.

In the second document I researched, “Medical Malpractice”, it explained the things that doctors can do wrong to affect their reputation and business. This is especially critical for me because I will be dealing with a vital organ of the heart, so there are many risks I have to watch out for. Educating patients on risk factors and education of the heart is necessary, and if not done, it is called negligence. This is something many professionals get wrongly sued for. I wish to let the patients know of all risks and factor, as well as be confident in what I know for certain. I must be reasonable in the decisions I make including diagnosis. Letting the patient know what procedures that they will undertake makes them feel prepared and will be approving of the process. Other factors for malpractice include nurses attaining incorrect data of the patient. This is something I heard much about at school, however, through a professional attitude, the hospital can still work together and be confident in the mistakes and diagnosis that they complete. To prevent the malpractice in the facility, I must be in contact with a lawyer to find a solution to legal problems and attain advise. This is very important nowadays to ensure that the doctor does not get sued. I must take this into consideration in the future in the field of cardiology.

Overall, through the aid of professional organizations and legal advice, I will be able to gain a community that will be beneficial for my future as a cardiologist. This will be achieved through hard work and the drive to attain my goal.