

Medical malpractice can happen in any setting where patient care occurs (at a hospital, in a doctor's office, in an outpatient clinic, in a laboratory or anywhere that a healthcare professional cares for patients). Many experts believe that 1.5 million people are hurt every year by medical errors, which generates billions of dollars in associated costs.

Here are the top 6 ways that patients can be harmed by healthcare providers.

1. **Diagnosis mistakes.** If a medical condition is not properly diagnosed or if a medical error prevents timely diagnosis, the patient can suffer serious side effects or even death. If a patient is wrongly diagnosed with a medical condition, they could receive unnecessary medication or treatment for their non-existent condition, subjecting them to great expense and suffering.
2. **Medication errors.** Nearly half a million drug-related injuries happen at hospitals across the United States every year, and hundreds of thousands more affect residents of long-term care facilities. Medication errors include everything from misuse of over-the-counter (OTC) or herbal medications to errors prescribing or administering prescription drugs. Patients can also be harmed by drug interactions when they are prescribed multiple medications that should not be taken together.
3. **Treatment mistakes.** Even if a patient's condition is properly diagnosed, they may receive inadequate, delayed or unnecessary treatment for their condition. Without correct or timely treatment, diseases and disorders can progress to a point that a patient can be irreversibly harmed or even killed. Unnecessary treatments for a medical condition can leave the patient with painful side-effects from a treatment they didn't even need.
4. **Hospital or surgical infections.** Patients staying in a hospital or undergoing surgery are at risk of contracting a variety of serious infections if proper procedures are not followed by doctors, nurses, or other healthcare staff. Some infections can be very serious, leaving patients debilitated and some can even kill.
5. **Anesthesia errors.** Patients who receive anesthesia during surgery may not receive the right kind of anesthesia, may receive too little or too much anesthesia, may not receive anesthesia in a timely manner, may not be properly monitored, may not receive the proper amount of oxygen, and more.
6. **Wrong site or unnecessary surgery.** Surgical mistakes can happen when doctors operate on the wrong patient or on the wrong part of the body. Unnecessary surgery can happen if a diagnosis was incorrect or if lab results were mixed up with another patient.

If you would like to discuss your case with an experienced lawyer, contact [Rasansky Law Firm](#). Our Dallas medical malpractice lawyers have the experience these cases require, and we accept cases from Texas and Oklahoma.