

Medical error: the second victim.

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Wu AW. Medical error: the second victim. The doctor who makes the mistake needs help too. BMJ. 2000;320(7237):726-727.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/medical-error-second-victim>

This editorial coined the term "second victim" to describe clinicians who commit errors, acknowledging the significant emotional impact that errors can have on the clinicians involved. Subsequent [research](#) has shown that involvement in an error adversely affects providers' emotional health and job satisfaction, and increases risk of [burnout](#). Inspired by these findings, organizations have now developed [innovative approaches](#) for supporting second victims, primarily through encouraging debriefing and open discussion of errors. An AHRQ WebM&M [commentary](#) discusses the effect of committing a [wrong-site procedure error](#) on a resident physician.