

# Can an integrative medicine approach help prevent medical errors?

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Medical errors are the third leading cause of death in the U.S. according to a published estimate, but many could be prevented with a shift in the medical industry from a production-driven to an integrative model of healthcare. The emphasis should be on value-based decision-making that takes into account the whole patient, says Editor-in-Chief John Weeks in an Editorial in *The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*.

In "Integrative Health: Implications from a Report That Medical Errors Are the USA's Third Leading Cause of Death," John Weeks outlines the factors that produce [errors](#), including the [medical industry](#)'s focus on production of services and the still-limited scientific basis of most medical decisions. He emphasizes the need for changes to the current incentive structure as well as a shift from the medical industry's production orientation toward a value-based approach. He also discusses how future research on integrative practices can help identify interventions associated with fewer and shorter hospital stays, healthier lifestyles, and better outcomes.

"The solution to [medical errors](#) may come less from focusing on ending errors than on delivering the kind of whole-person, whole-system, health-focused, individualized care that defines the integrative health movement," says *The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine* Editor-in-Chief John Weeks, [johnweeks-integrator.com](http://johnweeks-integrator.com), Seattle, WA.

**More information:** John Weeks, Integrative Health: Implications from a Report That Medical Errors Are the USA's Third Leading Cause of Death, *The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine* (2016). [DOI: 10.1089/acm.2016.29006.jjw](https://doi.org/10.1089/acm.2016.29006.jjw)

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