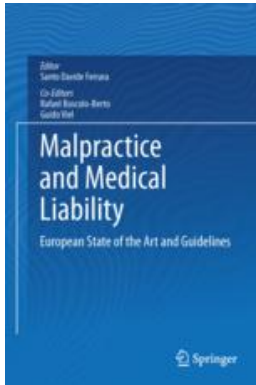


Malpractice and Medical Liability



European State of the Art and Guidelines

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2013, 2013, XXII, 345 p. 91 illus.

ISBN 978-3-642-35830-2

ABOUT THIS BOOK

- Provides consensus guidelines on methods of ascertainment as well as evaluation criteria in medical responsibility and liability by the International Working Group of the European Academy of Legal Medicine (EALM)
- Provides a comparative overview about legislation and jurisdiction in 11 different European countries
- Clarifies the steps required for a sequential, in-depth analysis of events and the consequences of medical actions

Medical responsibility lawsuits have become a fact of life in every physician's medical practice. However, there is evidence that physicians are increasingly practicing defensive medicine, ordering more tests than may be necessary and avoiding patients with complicated conditions. Modern medical practice is increasingly complicated by factors beyond the traditional realm of patient care, including novel technologies, loss of physician autonomy, and economic pressures. A continuing and significant issue affecting physicians and the healthcare system is malpractice. In the latter half of the 20th century, there was a major change in the attitude of the public towards the medical profession. People were made aware of the huge advances in medical technology, because health problems have increasingly tended to attract media interest and wide publicity. Medicine is a victim of its own success in this respect, and people are now led to expect the latest techniques and a perfect outcome on every occasion. This burst of technology and hyper-specialization in many fields of medicine means that each malpractice claim is transformed into a scientific challenge, requiring specific preparation in the analysis and judgment of the clinical case in question. The role of legal medicine has become increasingly specific in this judicial setting, often giving rise to erroneous interpretations and hasty scientific verdicts, but guidelines on the methodology of ascertainments and criteria of evaluation are lacking all over the world.

The aim of this book is to clarify the steps required for a sequential, in-depth analysis of events and the consequences of medical actions. This can then be used to verify whether, in the presence of damage, health professionals made errors or failed to observe rules of conduct, and which causal values and links to their possible misconduct are involved.

Content Level » Research

Keywords » medical malpractice - medical responsibility - medical tests

Related subjects » Biomedical Sciences - Law

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Source: <http://www.springer.com/biomed/book/978-3-642-35830-2>