



letter to the Editor

# Medical error disclosure: An integral part of improving the health system

Elham Adibmoghaddam<sup>1</sup>, Marjan Beigi<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Counseling and Reproductive Health Research Centre, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Department of Midwifery and Reproductive Health, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran

\*Corresponding Author: Marjan Beigi, Email: [beigi@nm.mui.ac.ir](mailto:beigi@nm.mui.ac.ir)

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## To Editor,

The deputy of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education specializes on disclosing and sharing medical errors or lessons learned from it and has introduced this necessary and related to health goals (1). In this regard, medical universities across the country must set up error and risk committees in both hospital and deputy areas to analyze the reported errors and minimize the occurrence of similar errors (2).

Currently, committees are held monthly in the university environment among the headquarters, and the results are sent to the relevant ministry twice a year. Notably, the officials of these committees in the ministry claim that most findings from the University Error and Risk Committees are related to the patients' complaints, and "self-disclosure errors" are less common. They believe that promoting a culture of systemic approach to errors, rather than individual approaches, is likely to be weak in the staff and environment of universities. Therefore, self-disclosure errors have been questionable (3).

In this regard, during the internship, it has been seen a lot that, in most cases, medical staff are no longer willing to report errors due to fear and concern about the hospital management system and unusual encounters after expressing the facts about the occurrence of errors and try to hide the error in any way (4). Unfortunately, this is because managers do not know that reporting errors and preventing potential harm to patients and ensuring their safety and health can be a valuable source of information in raising people's awareness to prevent the recurrence of similar cases.

The error disclosure process is so important, and it seems necessary for students to identify this culture from the course of study because the permanence of education in the course of study, especially university education, is

more stable (5). This issue is more important for midwifery students because they experience major concerns due to their constant exposure to pregnant mothers whose health is considered an indicator of development and community health and sometimes predisposes them to emotional disorders.

Promoting the error disclosure approach in these student leads to its institutionalization from the course of study, and in addition to strengthening critical thinking and self-confidence, prepares them to deal with events and improves their sense of responsibility (6). Universities have been the source of changes in society in various fields, and students, as the main pillars of the university and as the people who should be taken care of, form the main body of various organizations and organs of society. In this regard, emphasis is placed on promoting self-disclosure errors throughout the study.

## Authors' Contribution

**Conceptualization:** Elham Adib Moghaddam, Marjan Beigi.

**Data curation:** Marjan Beigi.

**Formal analysis:** Elham Adib Moghaddam.

**Investigation:** Marjan Beigi.

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## Competing Interests

None.

## Ethical Approval

Not applicable.

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