

Dear Madam/Sir, referring to *BMJ* 2016;353:i2139 doi: 10.1136/bmj.i2139 (Published 3 May 2016) *Medical error—the third leading cause of death in the US*.

The sub-heading line reads- *Medical error is not included on death certificates or in rankings of cause of death*.

Iatrogenesis refers to permanent harm and deaths arising from medical treatment as distinct from the patient's disorder. Null et al defined 12 iatrogenic categories.

Seemingly, the World Health Organisation's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) cannot accurately account for 10 of those categories. ICD accounts for 2 iatrogenic categories.

Medical error instances one example whereby a non-iatrogenic cause of death appears to have been substituted for the real iatrogenic cause. Annually in the US, 44,000 to 90,000 death certificates must bear some other cause of death. The other 9 categories of iatrogenic causes would appear to be subject to the practice of substitution.

US researchers, including three MDs and a PhD, produced a most comprehensive overview of America's full picture of their iatrogenic epidemic. They claimed to have used all available medical data. Their report stated: "*The most stunning statistic, however, is that the total number of deaths caused by conventional medicine is an astounding 783,936 per year. It is now evident that the American medical system is the leading cause of death and injury in the US.*"^[ii]

Along with 9 other categories *medical error is not included in rankings of cause of death*. Most of 783,936 death certificates must bear some other cause of death. Likewise, the thousands who die per year in Australia due to iatrogenesis are not reflected in Australia's annual Report *Cause of Death*. Apparently, their death certificates also have non-iatrogenic causes of death substituted on them.

Substitution permits individual governments and the mainstream media to conceal both their country's true total iatrogenic death toll and the global iatrogenic pandemic from public awareness. Substitution permits a dangerous deception; that the public health system is acceptably safe.

Front of mind public awareness of the true magnitude of medical harm threatens the vested interests of the 7 trillion dollar global illness industry. Substitution denies medical consumers access to that front of mind public awareness.

Key players in both the media and government know about the foregoing. Substitution's illusion that there is no iatrogenic epidemic allows the media and government to find no need to forewarn and so protect future generations of impending victims of iatrogenic harm. Concealment permits heinous misconduct.

Two publications, *the Australian Chiropractor* and the widely, internationally circulated, *Dynamic Chiropractic* have published information about the foregoing. As spectators, the chiropractic community has every right to regard those who are an informed party to promoting this great wrongdoing as being collectively, dangerously untrustworthy.

With respect, it is time for the *BMJ* to investigate and report on the foregoing.

Sincerely,

Michael McKibbin DC

CC Australia's chiropractic community, media

[ii] *Le Magazine* March 2004; *As We See It, Dangerous Medicine* http://www.lef.org/magazine/mag2004/mar2004_aws_i_01.htm