



America's Tunnel Vision—

How Insurance Companies' Propaganda Is Corrupting Medicine and Law

Author: Michael Townes Watson — Reviewed by Anita Finley

I found this book to be similar to a course I took when studying gerontology. It was called: Legal Aspects of Aging. It made me more aware of how we must become advocates for ourselves, our loved ones and our friends. The old ways of believing everyone in the medical world and just accepting what you were told are gone. We must all take responsibility for our care and for the care of others. It begins with the medical professionals, the medical institutions and the insurance companies. Since this is a very big subject, I was happy to read the way that the author and lawyer, Michael Watson, used facts and figures to back up his information.

Here are some questions to ponder: He asks; How many lost lives are enough? How many will it take before the public begins to take note? He cites that nearly 200,000 people are killed each year by hospital error,

according to the latest studies. A new study by the National Institutes of Medicine states that there are 1.5 million injuries in this country every year as a result of medication errors.

It was disturbing to read his statistics that hospital error kills more people than any form of cancer except lung cancer or that you are five times more likely to be injured in a hospital than when driving your car. Another statistic he cited that was alarming: One in three women will die from heart disease, but only one in five doctors will diagnose it. Even the *New England Journal of Medicine* has published articles stating that there is “an alarming increase” in the number of infections and that the “widely-accepted straightforward standard” of hand-washing is routinely violated.

Watson continues to ask: Should we continue to accept such violations and deaths without taking some action? Isn't there a way to make med-

ical care safer? Yes, say the doctors and those who study the healthcare industry. New legislation being considered by Congress would give incentives to institutional providers and insurers to study errors and make improvements in patient safety systems.

When patients are injured, Watson says, the insurance companies blame them, claiming that claims and lawsuits raise the cost of healthcare. A recent Harvard Health study, however, says that a substantial majority of patients who make claims have legitimate complaints about serious injuries. Frivolous claims do not clog the courts, says the study. The Congressional Budget Office reports that less than one percent of all healthcare dollars are spent on malpractice insurance for doctors and hospitals.

Michael Watson, author of *America's Tunnel Vision...* gives the reader the facts about medical error, ways to prevent it, and how to encourage doc-

tors, patients, lawyers and insurers to work together for a better system.

The author lives in West Greenwich Village area of New York City with his wife and their two sons. He was a trial lawyer in Fort Worth, Texas for twenty-eight years. He has spent a lot of his career working on behalf of good people, with legitimate cases and significant injuries. Because of what he saw occurring in Texas with the insurance companies, he decided to write this book. He says, “If my work can help readers understand [how they need to protect themselves], then I believe that I will have accomplished more than I ever could by working on individual cases.”

America's Tunnel Vision—How Insurance Companies' Propaganda Is Corrupting Medicine and Law by Michael Townes Watson was published by Horatio Press, New York and can be purchased at Amazon.com, at his website: www.StopMedicalError.com or contact Horatio Press at 646-290-6258; email him at mwatson@americastunnelvision.com.