

PSYCHOLOGY IN MALAYSIA

Current Research and Future Directions

Noraini M. Noor
Mariam Adawiah Dzulkipli



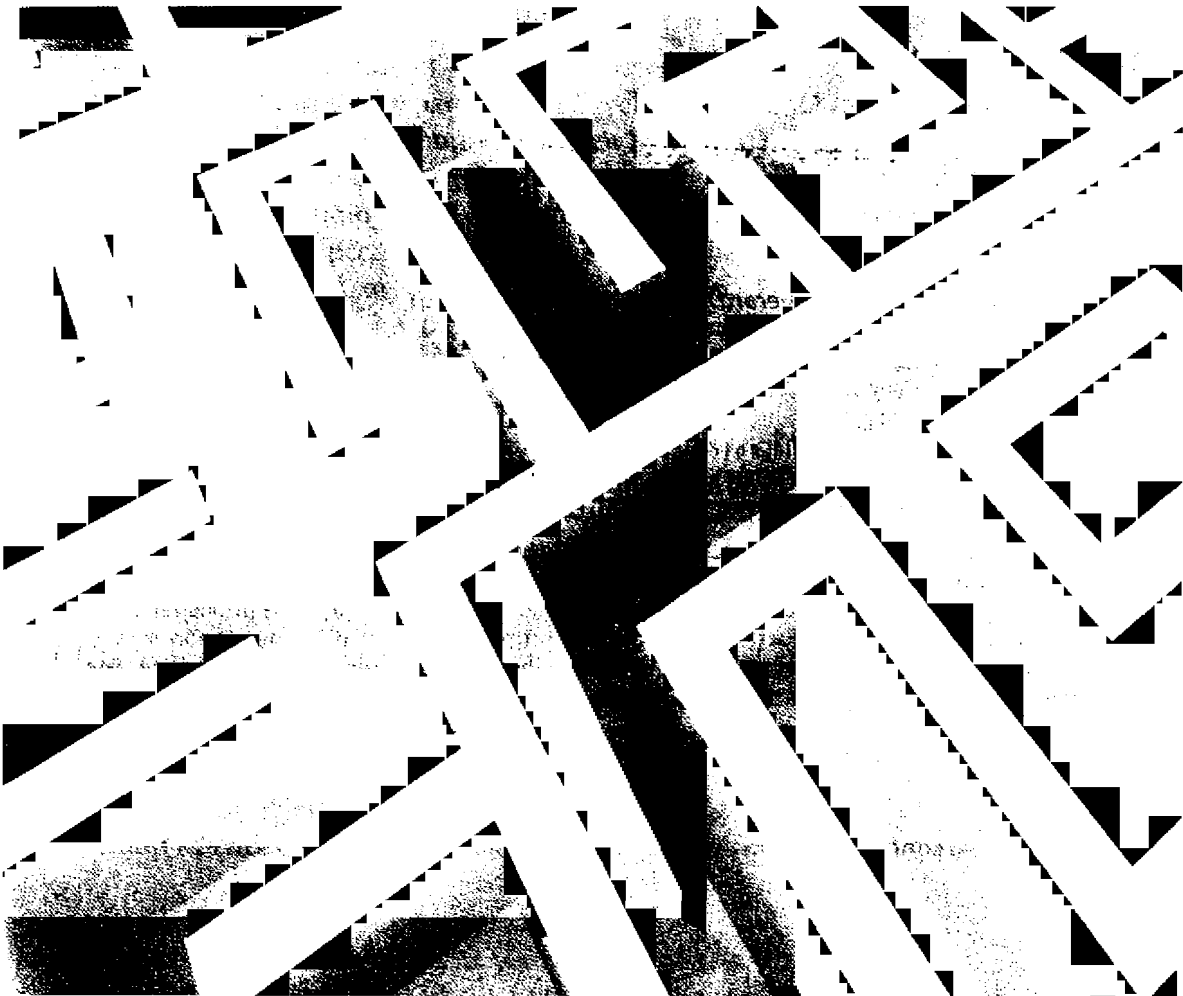
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Published in 2012 by
Pearson Malaysia Sdn Bhd
Level 1, Tower 2A, Avenue 5
Bangsar South
No. 8 Jalan Kerinchi
59200 Kuala Lumpur

Custom Programme Manager: *Hasri Hasan*
Acquisitions Editor: *Zulaikha Nurain Mudzar*
Project Editor: *Neo Yi Ling*

Pearson Asia Pacific offices: *Bangkok, Beijing, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo*

Printed in Malaysia (CTP-PJB)

4 3 2 1
15 14 13 12

ISBN 978-967-349-207-7

Cover photo courtesy of gerard79@www.digital-delight.ch

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Noraini M. Noor



Patient Safety

Harris Shah Abd Hamid

Introduction

Diseases and sickness are part of a normal life. It is also normal to seek treatment for afflictions. However, quite surprisingly, it is also normal for people to be exposed to additional harms in the process of being treated. A study of British hospitals revealed that 10.8% of patients admitted to hospitals experienced unintended injuries caused by medical mismanagement (Vincent, Neale, & Woloshynowych, 2001). Patients experienced single or multiple injuries that led to mild impairments, permanent impairments, and even death. Shockingly, 48% of the unintended injuries, or adverse events, were preventable.

The costly effects of medical mismanagement of patients cannot be under-emphasised. Reduction in the quality of life for the patient is, of course, paramount. On top of that, adverse events can prolong the hospitalisation period, leading to additional medical costs. Legal costs may also be incurred by the hospital if patients can successfully show that the hospital personnel were negligent in monitoring their care. For example, in 2010, a patient who suffered from permanent brain damage during an operation for his back pain on 2 September 2006 won a suit against a hospital in Malaysia (*Utusan*