

record in medicine

staffed medical boards answering to state governments that are poorly trained to oversee them. Add to this the fact that they are successfully lobbied by large insurance companies and medical societies.

Colorado Medical Society members receive a discount from COPIC. There are no such consumer groups, lobbyists or funds to advocate for the patient.

A medical mistake deserves compensation. Recording or taping should be irrelevant except to the party who might care to sell a creative version of events. The fact that a tape exists should bypass this tactic and enable everyone to get to the business of establishing liability. Taping all procedures could protect consumers as well as doctors, and it should be a matter of course.

It has been proven that physicians have lied to the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners. Yet no physician has ever been punished for lying to the board in a confidential response. With this code of silence, we patients, as a matter of surviv-

al, must protect ourselves from acts and omissions that could cost us our lives.

Take an active role in your care. Read your charts, ask questions and ask for copies. Tape your visits if you choose. If any provider attempts to discourage you, insist and even offer to make a copy for them before you leave the office. Selective editing in a lawsuit will be non-existent if both parties have copies.

Doctors pay a great deal of money for insurance, and that cost is passed on to us. If there is a liability, compensation should be a matter of fact.

"Our task is to keep physicians out of trouble," says a California insurance company representative. Apparently, fair compensation of victims is not recognized by this industry. It is time for all Americans to wake up and see this problem for what it is. Do not tolerate any ban on audio and video equipment in medical care.

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