
Table 1: The basis for errors in clinical judgement

Root cause of fallibility	Solution
Intellectual factors	
Overconfidence in oneself	Prompt unambiguous feedback
Finite capacity of the human brain	Simplifying technologies
Random chance and self-limited disease	Training in probability theory
Lack of checking for errors	
Reluctance to change initial opinions	Searching for contrary data
Unquestioning self-approval	Maintaining greater humility
Unawareness of subtle failures	Peer review of performance
Environmental factors	
Impracticality of looking for mistakes	Automatic follow-up systems
Propagation of errors made by others	Nonpunitive supervision
Unawareness of limits of judgement	Staying up with the literature

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