

University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers

**(Step 2) Taking potential benefits and harms into account:  
Organization-Centered Interests**

<b>“How might the organization be affected?”</b>	
<b>Potential benefits of disclosure (Why to disclose)</b>	<b>Potential harms of disclosure (Why not to disclose)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The sharing of such experiences can broaden collective learning and encourage implementation of proactive changes in clinical practice</li>   <li>◆ Disclosure enhances the integrity of the organization by demonstrating its willingness to take ownership of errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ There might be a loss of public trust and confidence</li>   <li>◆ There is a risk of liability</li> </ul>

**Based in part on the work of:**

- (1) Wu A. et al. “To Tell the Truth: Ethical and Practical Issues in Disclosing Medical Mistakes to Patients.” *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. 12.12(December 1997):770-775.
  
- (2) Rosner F. et al. “Disclosure and Prevention of Medical Errors.” *Archives of Internal Medicine*. 160(2000):2089-2092.

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