

# Dennis Quaid: 'Healthcare Mistakes Due To Failure Of System'

Lauren Vance 16 hrs ago



WASHINGTON (WUSA) -- In 2007, actor Dennis and his wife, Kimberly Quaid, almost lost their 12-day-old twins after hospital personnel administered 1,000 times the pediatric dose of the blood Heparin.

"My wife, Kimberly, and I started our education about health care harm in this country, but it was something I never expected to get into," says Dennis Quaid.

Now the Quaid's have teamed up with leading medical experts and professionals and launched the Quaid Foundation. Their message, Dennis Quaid says "is a call to action."

Monday, Dennis Quaid addressed what he calls the need for more oversight and communication among patients and medical record keepers to avoid "medical human errors" at the National Press Club.

Quaid says, "I am not here to denigrate doctors, nurses, pharmacists, any care giver. I revere them, I really do. They are overworked, under-appreciated, but they are also human, and all humans make

mistakes. I have now learned that most health mistakes (are) due to the failure of the systems that support them. "

Dr. Charles Denham, Chairman of the Texas Medical Institute of Technology is partnering with the Quaid Foundation and calls the current medical system broken.

Dr. Denham explains, "We have caught up with our support systems to the complexity of care that we deliver."

He suggests patients have to stay informed and be their own advocates.

### What can you do as a patient to protect yourself?

-- Government health officials say if you're going to be hospitalized, try to choose a facility at which high numbers of patients get the procedure or surgery you need.

-- Ask anyone who has direct contact with you if they've washed their hands.

-- Share with staffers what medications you're already taking and any allergic you've had.

-- Make sure you understand your discharge orders clearly before you go home.

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