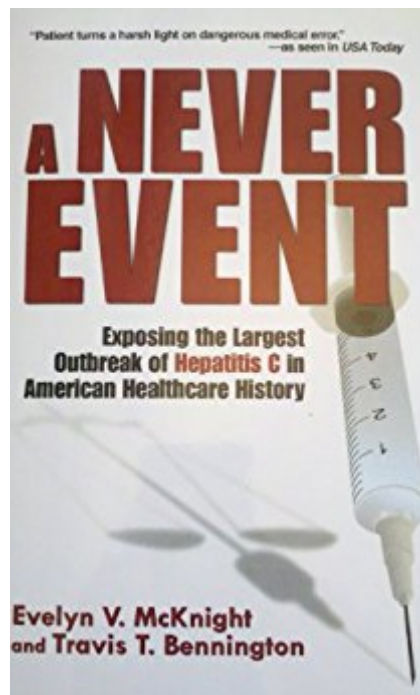


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# A Never Event: Exposing The Largest Outbreak Of Hepatitis C In American Healthcare History



## Synopsis

In the small farming community of Fremont, Nebraska, townspeople eagerly welcomed an acclaimed doctor as the first full-time oncologist at their new cancer treatment center - but the fanfare soon turned into a nightmare. During chemotherapy treatments, 857 patients who were already waging the fights of their lives against cancer, were inexplicably exposed to the deadly, blood-borne hepatitis C virus. At least ninety-nine of them contracted the lethal illness. The horror was unprecedented - this was the largest healthcare-transmitted outbreak of hepatitis C in American history. "A Never Event" - a term used to describe a preventable medical tragedy - is a searing story of recklessness, deception and betrayal. It's part mystery, part courtroom drama. Written by a survivor of the tragedy and an attorney who represented many of the victims, "A Never Event" is a wake-up call to all Americans accessing healthcare

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This "true" story is one of the best books that I have ever read and I HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT TO EVERYONE that is able to read. The TRUTH, startling facts, will bring you to tears and enlightenment, all due to negligence and totally unethical practices by limited key health care

professionals in an Out Patient Clinic. The extend of damage is uncomprehending for the patients and their loved one. Health professional must be held accountable. The law must protect the innocent general public and guarantee that victims will be able to cover their enormous medical bills for the duration of their disease or life expectancy(which ever is longest). The negligent health care practitioners were merely slapped on the wrist and surrendered their licenses due to Nebraska law, however they most unfortunately did not serve any jail time for the damages and deaths that occurred as a result of their actions. Mrs. McKnight is not only a victim & survivor, but also a pioneer in spreading the word & creating HONORReform. Numerous victims share their personal stories and impact on their lives, and the lives of everyone in their inner circles. With all of the medical procedures that are done in the United States alone, "YOU" (the patient) MUST be aware of all health care practitioners practices. If you think something is wrong-it most likely is. The professionals administering patient care must diligently practice quality Infection Prevention Practices. Thousands of RED FLAGS went unnoticed, over and over again, during this entire tragic event...due to friendships, politics and technicalities. If we don't learn from the errors of our ways then we are bound to repeat them. The entire country needs to get on board with this one. First there was Nebraska, then Nevada...who is next? This book will not only change your life, but also your practice as a patient and/or professional. I can not thank the authors enough for sharing this story.

My book club read *“A Never Event”* after hearing about the author’s story. None of us are medical professionals, but the book was very understandable and easy to read. The challenging part came with coming to terms with this true story: a completely preventable medical tragedy that changed the lives of patients and families. The story is part true crime and part medical drama, and it was a page-turner from the beginning, with plenty of “truth is stranger than fiction” moments throughout. The book is a real eye-opener about what patients can do to advocate for themselves, and the strength of family and “doing the right thing.” This book is both easy to read and very hard to put down “and also it is difficult to hear how so many people seemingly failed the patients in this Nebraska community. This book does a wonderful job of raising awareness about Hepatitis C, safe medical practices, and being an advocate for oneself with health care.

This title was a selection for my book group, and I approached reading it with dread that it would be so steeped in medical jargon that I would get lost. This is definitely not the case. The authors used

just the right blend of medical facts with the humanity of the patients involved. Discussion and interest at the book group was stimulating. Many husbands came with wives in the hope of understanding how this "never event" happened. The book includes a useful timeline of the Nebraska Hepatitis C Outbreak and information about Hepatitis C. Read it on your own or make it a book group selection--just read it.

This is the amazing story of the largest outbreak of hepatitis C created by a healthcare provider in American history. It is the story of the devastation caused by Dr Tahir Javed in his Freemont (Nebraska) Cancer Center; an outbreak that first became known around 2002. It is written by Evelyn McKnight, a victim herself, as she tries to navigate through a medical system that seems at times designed for the sole purpose of protecting its own self interest. The hospital where this happened even fought her attempt to publish the truth of what happened in this book. She includes the stories of others enduring their own version of this disaster as it progresses through painful medical treatments, the courts, and the media. It is at times shocking and depressing, but I never got over the sense of frustration when presented with the multiple levels of failure to safeguard the public by many who were responsible for doing so along the way. It's a true story that never should've happened. Even as some of the victims died, Evelyn continued on in her fight for victory over this deadly disease. As a testament to the person she is, she avoided becoming embittered and has gone on to establish the non-profit HONORReform Foundation organization in an attempt to make sure that others won't have to suffer as she has. As a paramedic and RN with over 20 years experience, I can wholeheartedly recommend this book to any healthcare provider no matter their level of training. For those in the medical field I believe it is a "must read" for anyone who believes in the maximum "first, do no further harm" when treating their patients. But one must not be a medical professional to understand and appreciate this book. Mrs. McKnight, who is an Audiologist by trade, has taken care to write this book without medical jargon that could only be understood by professionals. In fact, anyone can read and understand exactly what is taking place. I also recommend this book for anyone who is or may be undergoing medical treatment in the future. I make that recommendation, not for the purpose of frightening anyone, but to empower those who need or want to take a more active role in their own healthcare. After reading this book any person should be more comfortable, and have a greater willingness, of asking even tough questions of anyone providing medical care to themselves or someone they love. If knowledge is power then reading this book will deliver. (This book is also available in a Kindle version)

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