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Charles Vincent trained as a Clinical Psychologist and worked in the British NHS for several years. Since 1985 he has carried out research on the causes of harm to patients, the consequences for patients and staff and methods of prevention. He established the Clinical Risk Unit at University College in 1995 where he was Professor of Psychology before moving to the Imperial College in 2002. He now directs the Clinical Safety Research Unit based in Department of Department of Biosurgery and Technology, Imperial College London. He is the editor of Clinical Risk Management (BMJ Publications, 2nd edition, 2001), author of Patient Safety (2^{ned} edition 2010) and author of many papers on risk, safety and medical error. From 1999 to 2003 he was a Commissioner on the UK Commission for Health Improvement. In 2007 he was appointed Director of the National Institute of Health Research Centre for Patient Safety & Service Quality at Imperial College Healthcare Trust. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and of the NHS Institute for Innovation & Improvement.