List of Adverse Events

Adverse Events are serious healthcare errors that should never happen, such as surgery on the wrong body part. In 2008, Alabama hospitals were asked to sign the Adverse Events Letter of Agreement. By signing this agreement, hospitals agreed not to bill for services associated with 11 adverse events. These 11 events were defined by the Alabama Hospital Association’s Guidance Regarding Adverse Events, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the National Quality Forum (NQF).

The list will continue to expand with the addition of CMS events and patient care focused NQF events.

Effective October 1, 2008:

- Object left in the body after surgery - Unintended retention of a foreign object in a patient after surgery or other procedure
- Air embolism - Patient death or serious disability directly attributable to an intravascular air embolism that occurs while being cared for in a healthcare facility
- Blood incompatibility - Patient death or serious disability directly attributable to a hemolytic reaction due to the administration of ABO/HLA-incompatible blood or blood products
- Hospital-acquired pressure ulcers (decubitus ulcers) - stage three and four
- Hospital-acquired catheter-associated urinary tract infections
- Hospital-acquired vascular catheter-associated infection
- Hospital-acquired mediastinitis after coronary artery bypass surgery
- Falls and trauma (hospital-acquired) - fractures, dislocations, intracranial injuries, crushing injuries and burns
- Surgery performed on the wrong body part
- Surgery performed on the wrong patient
- Wrong surgical procedure performed on a patient
Effective October 1, 2009:
- Surgical-site infections following certain orthopedic procedures: Spine, Neck, Shoulder, Elbow
- Surgical-site infections following certain bariatric surgery for obesity: Laparoscopic Gastric Bypass, Gastroenterostomy, Laparoscopic Gastric Restrictive Surgery
- Manifestations of poor glycemic control: Diabetic Ketoacidosis, Nonketotic Hyperosmolar Coma, Hypoglycemic Coma, Secondary Diabetes with Ketoacidosis, Secondary Diabetes with Hyperosmolarity
- Deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism following certain orthopedic procedures

Effective January 1, 2009 (contingent upon hospital contract negotiation):
- Surgical Events
  - Post-operative death in normal healthy patient
  - Implantation of wrong egg or sperm
- Product or Device Events
  - Death/disability associated with use of contaminated drugs, devices or biologics
  - Death/disability associated with use of device other than as intended
- Care Management Event
  - Death/disability associated with medication error
  - Maternal death/disability with low-risk delivery
  - Death/disability associated with hypoglycemia
  - Death/disability associated with hyperbilirubinemia in neonates
  - Death/disability due to spinal manipulative therapy
- Environmental Events
  - Death/disability associated with use of restraints within facility
  - Death/disability due to wrong oxygen or gas