OREGON PATIENT SAFETY COMMISSION

Patient Safety Reporting Program

Harm Categories & Algorithm

Harm Categories

Adverse event ("event") is defined as an event resulting in unintended harm or creating the potential for harm that is related to any aspect of a patient's care (by an act of commission or omission) rather than to the underlying disease or condition of the patient; adverse events may or may not be preventable.

Category A	Circumstances that have the capacity to cause an adverse event	**Unsafe condition or near miss**
Category B	An event occurred that did not reach the patient (an "error of omission" does reach the patient)	
Category C	An event occurred that reached the patient but did not cause patient harm *Harm is defined as "any physical injury or damage to the health of a person requiring additional medical care, including both temporary and permanent injury"*	**Adverse event, no harm**
Category D	An event occurred that reached the patient and required monitoring to confirm that it resulted in no harm to the patient and/or required intervention to preclude harm *Monitoring is defined as "to observe or record physiological or psychological signs"* *Intervention is defined as including "change in therapy or active medical/surgical treatment"*	
Category E	An event occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in temporary harm to the patient but did not require a significant intervention *Significant intervention is defined as "an intervention intended to relieve symptoms that have the potential to be life-threatening if not addressed"*	**Adverse event, less serious harm**
Category F	An event occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in temporary harm to the patient and required a significant intervention *Significant intervention is defined as "an intervention intended to relieve symptoms that have the potential to be life-threatening if not addressed"*	**Adverse event, serious harm or death**
Category G	An event occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in permanent patient harm *Permanent harm is defined as "harm lasting more than 6 months, or where end harm is not known ('watchful waiting')"*	
Category H	An event occurred that required intervention necessary to sustain life *Intervention necessary to sustain life is defined as including "cardiovascular and/or respiratory support (e.g., CPR, defibrillation, intubation)"*	
Category I	An event occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in patient's death	

Adapted from "NCC MERP Index for Categorizing Medication Errors." 2001 National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention.

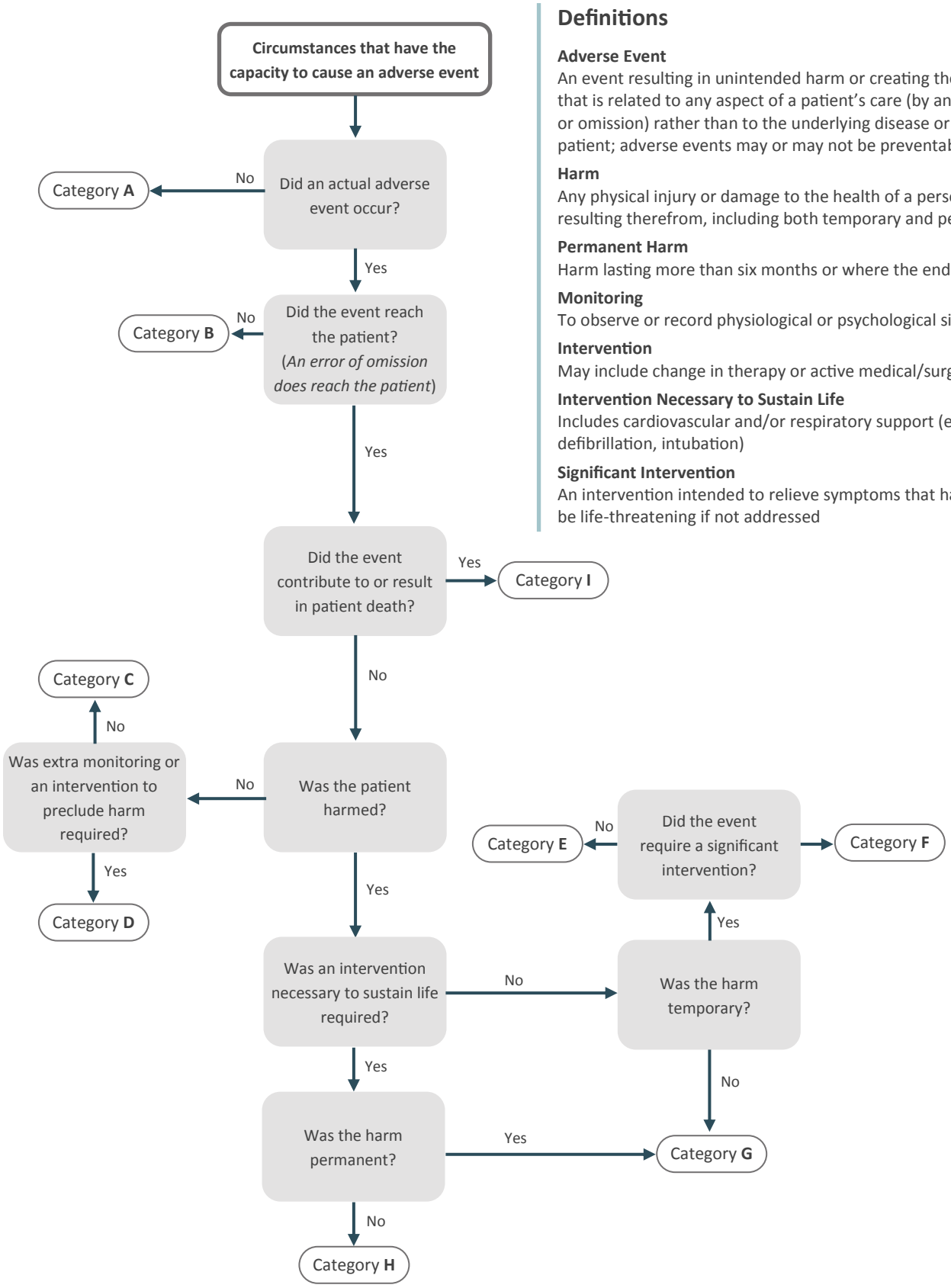
What Must be Reported

Participants in Oregon's Patient Safety Reporting Program are required to report any adverse events that result in serious harm or death, which includes harm categories F through I (blue shading). In addition, ambulatory surgery centers and hospitals are also required to report certain events regardless of patient harm.

Participants are encouraged to report unsafe conditions or near misses, no harm events, and less serious harm events (yellow shading).

Report. Learn. Improve Patient Safety.

Harm Algorithm



Definitions

Adverse Event
An event resulting in unintended harm or creating the potential for harm that is related to any aspect of a patient's care (by an act of commission or omission) rather than to the underlying disease or condition of the patient; adverse events may or may not be preventable

Harm
Any physical injury or damage to the health of a person and/or pain resulting therefrom, including both temporary and permanent injury

Permanent Harm
Harm lasting more than six months or where the end harm is not known

Monitoring
To observe or record physiological or psychological signs

Intervention
May include change in therapy or active medical/surgical treatment

Intervention Necessary to Sustain Life
Includes cardiovascular and/or respiratory support (e.g., CPR, defibrillation, intubation)

Significant Intervention
An intervention intended to relieve symptoms that have the potential to be life-threatening if not addressed

Adapted from "NCC MERP Index for Categorizing Medication Errors Algorithm."
2001 National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention.

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