

**HOSPITAL MEDICAL ERROR REPORTING RULE**  
**(January 1, 2009 - )**

**410 IAC 15-1.4-2 Quality assessment and improvement**

**Authority: IC 16-21-1-7**

**Affected: IC 16-21-1**

Sec. 2. (a) The hospital shall have an effective, organized, hospital-wide, comprehensive quality assessment and improvement program in which all areas of the hospital participate. The program shall be ongoing and have a written plan of implementation that evaluates, but is not limited to, the following:

- (1) All services, including services furnished by a contractor.
- (2) All functions, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - (A) Discharge planning.
  - (B) Infection control.
  - (C) Medication therapy.
  - (D) Response to emergencies as defined in 410 IAC 15-1.5-5(b)(3)(L)(i).
- (3) All medical and surgical services performed in the hospital with regard to appropriateness of diagnosis and treatments related to a standard of care and anticipated or expected outcomes.

(b) The hospital shall take appropriate action to address the opportunities for improvement found through the quality assessment and improvement program as follows:

- (1) The action shall be documented.
- (2) The outcome of the action shall be documented as to its effectiveness, continued follow-up, and impact on patient care.

*(Indiana State Department of Health; 410 IAC 15-1.4-2; filed Dec 21, 1994, 9:40 a.m.: 18 IR 1267; readopted filed Jul 11, 2001, 2:23 p.m.: 24 IR 4234; readopted filed May 22, 2007, 1:44 p.m.: 20070613-IR-41007014IRFA)*

**410 IAC 15-1.4-2.2 Reportable events**

**Authority: IC 16-19-3-4; IC 16-21-1-7**

**Affected: IC 16-19-3; IC 16-21-1; IC 25**

Sec. 2.2. (a) The hospital's quality assessment and improvement program under section 2 of this rule shall include the following:

- (1) A process for determining the occurrence of the following reportable events within the hospital:
  - (A) The following surgical events:
    - (i) Surgery performed on the wrong body part, defined as any surgery performed on a body part that is not consistent with the documented informed consent for that patient. Excluded are emergent situations:
      - (AA) that occur in the course of surgery; or
      - (BB) whose exigency precludes obtaining informed consent;
    - or both.

- (ii) Surgery performed on the wrong patient, defined as any surgery on a patient that is not consistent with the documented informed consent for that patient.
  - (iii) Wrong surgical procedure performed on a patient, defined as any procedure performed on a patient that is not consistent with the documented informed consent for that patient. Excluded are emergent situations:
    - (AA) that occur in the course of surgery; or
    - (BB) whose exigency precludes obtaining informed consent;
 or both.
  - (iv) Retention of a foreign object in a patient after surgery or other invasive procedure. The following are excluded:
    - (AA) Objects intentionally implanted as part of a planned intervention.
    - (BB) Objects present before surgery that were intentionally retained.
    - (CC) Objects not present prior to surgery that are intentionally left in when the risk of removal exceeds the risk of retention, such as microneedles or broken screws.
  - (v) Intraoperative or immediately postoperative death in an ASA Class I patient. Included are all ASA Class I patient deaths in situations where anesthesia was administered; the planned surgical procedure may or may not have been carried out.
- (B) The following product or device events:
- (i) Patient death or serious disability associated with the use of contaminated drugs, devices, or biologics provided by the hospital. Included are generally detectable contaminants in drugs, devices, or biologics regardless of the source of contamination or product.
  - (ii) Patient death or serious disability associated with the use or function of a device in patient care in which the device is used or functions other than as intended. Included are, but not limited to, the following:
    - (AA) Catheters.
    - (BB) Drains and other specialized tubes.
    - (CC) Infusion pumps.
    - (DD) Ventilators.
  - (iii) Patient death or serious disability associated with intravascular air embolism that occurs while being cared for in the hospital. Excluded are deaths or serious disability associated with neurosurgical procedures known to present a high risk of intravascular air embolism.
- (C) The following patient protection events:

- (i) Infant discharged to the wrong person.
  - (ii) Patient death or serious disability associated with patient elopement.
  - (iii) Patient suicide or attempted suicide resulting in serious disability, while being cared for in the hospital, defined as events that result from patient actions after admission to the hospital. Excluded are deaths resulting from self-inflicted injuries that were the reason for admission to the hospital.
- (D) The following care management events:
- (i) Patient death or serious disability associated with a medication error, for example, errors involving the wrong:
    - (AA) drug;
    - (BB) dose;
    - (CC) patient;
    - (DD) time;
    - (EE) rate;
    - (FF) preparation; or
    - (GG) route of administration.

Excluded are reasonable differences in clinical judgment on drug selection and dose. Includes administration of a medication to which a patient has a known allergy and drug-drug interactions for which there is known potential for death or serious disability.
  - (ii) Patient death or serious disability associated with a hemolytic reaction due to the administration of ABO/HLA incompatible blood or blood products.
  - (iii) Maternal death or serious disability associated with labor or delivery in a low-risk pregnancy while being cared for in the hospital. Included are events that occur within forty-two (42) days postdelivery. Excluded are deaths from any of the following:
    - (AA) Pulmonary or amniotic fluid embolism.
    - (BB) Acute fatty liver of pregnancy.
    - (CC) Cardiomyopathy.
  - (iv) Patient death or serious disability associated with hypoglycemia, the onset of which occurs while the patient is being cared for in the hospital.
  - (v) Death or serious disability (kernicterus) associated with the failure to identify and treat hyperbilirubinemia in neonates.
  - (vi) Stage 3 or Stage 4 pressure ulcers acquired after admission to the hospital. Excluded is progression from Stage 2 or Stage 3 if the Stage 2 or Stage 3 pressure ulcer was recognized upon admission or unstageable because of the presence of eschar.

- (vii) Patient death or serious disability resulting from joint movement therapy performed in the hospital.
- (viii) Artificial insemination with the wrong donor sperm or wrong egg.
- (E) The following environmental events:
  - (i) Patient death or serious disability associated with an electric shock while being cared for in the hospital. Excludes events involving planned treatment, such as electrical countershock or elective cardioversion.
  - (ii) Any incident in which a line designated for oxygen or other gas to be delivered to a patient:
    - (AA) contains the wrong gas; or
    - (BB) is contaminated by toxic substances.
  - (iii) Patient death or serious disability associated with a burn incurred from any source while being cared for in the hospital.
  - (iv) Patient death or serious disability associated with a fall while being cared for in the hospital.
  - (v) Patient death or serious disability associated with the use of restraints or bed rails while being cared for in the hospital.
- (F) The following criminal events:
  - (i) Any instance of care ordered by or provided by someone impersonating a physician, nurse, pharmacist, or other licensed health care provider.
  - (ii) Abduction of a patient of any age.
  - (iii) Sexual assault on a patient within or on the grounds of the hospital.
  - (iv) Death or significant injury of a patient or staff member resulting from a physical assault, that is, battery, that occurs within or on the grounds of the hospital.
- (2) A process for reporting to the department each reportable event listed in subdivision (1) that is determined by the hospital's quality assessment and improvement program to have occurred within the hospital.
  - (b) Subject to subsection (e), the process for determining the occurrence of the reportable events listed in subsection (a)(1) by the hospital's quality assessment and improvement program shall be designed by the hospital to accurately determine the occurrence of any of the reportable events listed in subsection (a)(1) within the hospital in a timely manner.
  - (c) Subject to subsection (e), the process for reporting the occurrence of a reportable event listed in subsection (a)(1) shall comply with the following:
    - (1) The report shall:
      - (A) be made to the department;
      - (B) be submitted not later than fifteen (15) working days after the reportable event is determined to have occurred by the hospital's quality assessment and improvement program;

- (C) be submitted not later than four (4) months after the potential reportable event is brought to the program's attention; and
  - (D) identify the reportable event, the quarter of occurrence, and the hospital, but shall not include any identifying information for any:
    - (i) patient;
    - (ii) individual licensed under IC 25; or
    - (iii) hospital employee involved;or any other information.
- (2) A potential reportable event may be identified by a hospital that:
- (A) receives a patient as a transfer; or
  - (B) admits a patient subsequent to discharge; from another health care facility subject to a reportable event requirement. In the event that a hospital identifies a potential reportable event originating from another health care facility subject to a reportable event requirement, the identifying hospital shall notify the originating health care facility as soon as they determine an event has potentially occurred for consideration by the originating health care facility's quality assessment and improvement program.
- (3) The report, and any documents permitted under this section to accompany the report, shall be submitted in an electronic format, including a format for electronically affixed signatures.
- (4) A quality assessment and improvement program may refrain from making a determination about the occurrence of a reportable event that involves a possible criminal act until criminal charges are filed in the applicable court of law.

(d) The hospital's report of a reportable event listed in subsection (a)(1) shall be used by the department for purposes of publicly reporting the type and number of reportable events occurring within each hospital. The department's public report will be issued annually.

(e) Any reportable event listed in subsection (a)(1) that:

- (1) is determined to have occurred within the hospital between:
  - (A) January 1, 2009; and
  - (B) the effective date of this rule; and

(2) has not been previously reported; must be reported within five (5) days of the effective date of this rule. (*Indiana State Department of Health; 410 IAC 15-1.4-2.2; filed Nov 16, 2006, 4:01 p.m.: 20061213-IR-410050193FRA; errata filed Dec 29, 2006, 1:53 p.m.: 20070117-IR-410050193ACA; readopted filed May 22, 2007, 1:44 p.m.: 20070613-IR-410070141RFA; filed Oct 7, 2008, 10:26 a.m.: 20081105-IR-410080061FRA*)