Adverse and Temporary Harm Events in Rehabilitation Hospitals Designated in Office of Inspector General Report\(^1\) as Clearly Preventable or Likely Preventable, by Clinical Category

### Adverse Events Related to Medication

**Delirium or change in mental status due to medications**
- Multiple episodes of unresponsiveness secondary to benzodiazepine and hypnotic requiring an emergency reversal agent
- Lethargy and syncopal episode secondary to opioid resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital
- Cascade in which medication-induced confusion and agitation secondary to benzodiazepine led to patient pulling urinary catheter with resultant injury and bleeding

**Excessive bleeding due to medication**
- Bleeding from gastric ulcers secondary to anticoagulants resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital
- Peri-incisional hematoma in thigh secondary to multiple anticoagulants

**Hypotension secondary to medication**
- Hypotensive-event (syncope) secondary to beta-blocker used to treat multiple conditions, including hypertension, resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital
- Orthostatic hypotension secondary to medication used to treat hypertension

**Dehydration and related electrolyte disorders associated with medication**
- Hyperkalemia secondary to diuretic and antihypertensive
- Acute renal failure, hyperkalemia (high potassium) and dehydration secondary to diuretics resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital

**Diarrhea secondary to medication**

**Nausea and vomiting secondary to medication**
- Nausea and vomiting due to opioid pain medication

**Hypoglycemic events due to medication**
- Multiple, severe symptomatic hypoglycemic episodes characterized by a period of unresponsiveness and blood glucose of 29 resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital

### Adverse Events Related to Patient Care

**Exacerbations of preexisting conditions and other deteriorating medical conditions**
- Omission of care led to congestive heart failure exacerbation resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital
- Cascade event in which failure to monitor progressive dysphagia led to dehydration resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital related to poor transition of care with failure to provide BiPAP in patient with Obstructive Sleep Apnea
- Cardiac arrest requiring Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support and transfer to acute-care hospital

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Dehydration and related electrolyte disorders associated with patient care
- Acute renal injury due to inadequate management of fluid intake resulting in dehydration and transfer to an acute-care hospital
- Significant dehydration due to inadequate hydration resulting in hospitalization

Pressure ulcer
- Progression of stage II pressure ulcer on buttocks to a stage IV pressure ulcer
- Progression of stage I pressure ulcer on heel to a stage IV ulcer

Venous thromboembolism, DVT, or PE

Other patient-care events
- Cascade in which continuous passive movement (CPM) and anticoagulation led to bleeding and worsening contracture resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital
- Hemorrhagic cystitis in patient associated with Foley catheter and anticoagulant

Adverse Events Related to Infections or Antibiotics

Catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI)
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infection (Escherichia coli)
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infection (Enterobacter)

Clostridium difficile infection
- Clostridium difficile infection secondary to antibiotics
- Cascade event in which a Clostridium difficile infection (while being treated with an antibiotic) led to significant dehydration, acute kidney injury, hyponatremia, confusion, and metabolic acidosis resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital

Sepsis
- Cascade event in which delayed recognition of pneumonia led to sepsis and then severe hypotension resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital and finally death
- Cascade event in which a urosepsis (characterized by increasing confusion) developed into septic shock, which led to kidney failure and hypotension resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital

Other infection adverse events
- Peripherally inserted central catheter infection characterized by sepsis-like symptoms (hypotension, lethargy) resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital and, finally, death
- Deep pelvic infection resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital
- Cascade event in which aspiration pneumonia led to hypotension resulting in transfer to an acute-care hospital

Temporary Harm Events Related to Medication

Medication-induced delirium or other change in mental status
- Significant confusion due to opioids
- Significant lethargy secondary to antipsychotic
- Lethargy and anxiety secondary to antidepressant (serotonin antagonist and reuptake inhibitor (SARI))
• Confusion and lethargy secondary to opioid pain medication
• Lethargy and confusion secondary to multiple medications, including an opioid analgesic, an atypical antipsychotic, and a benzodiazepine
• Weakness and imbalance secondary to medication used to lower blood pressure
• Hallucinations secondary to hypnotic
• Confusion secondary to benzodiazepine
• Lethargy secondary to opioid pain medication
• Sedation and lethargy secondary to antianxiety medications (benzodiazepines)

**Hypoglycemic events related to medication**
• Multiple episodes of asymptomatic hypoglycemia with blood glucose readings of 38 and 41
• Symptomatic blood glucose characterized by cold and clammy skin and a blood glucose of 47

**Constipation, obstipation, and ileus from medication**
• Significant constipation secondary to opioid pain medication

**Allergic reactions to medications**
• Allergic reaction to antibiotic
• Allergic reaction (multiple episodes of itching) secondary to opioid pain medication

**Hypotension secondary to medication**
• Orthostatic hypotension secondary to diuretic
• Cascade event in which dehydration and medication used to treat hypertension led to hypotension and then acute kidney injury

**Thrush**

**Adverse reaction to medication (nonallergic or not otherwise specified)**

**Diarrhea secondary to medication**
• Significant diarrhea secondary to stool softener

**Other medication temporary harm events**
• Hyponatremia secondary to medication used to treat hypertension and congestive heart failure by treating fluid retention
• Bleeding from surgical incision site with associated decreased hemoglobin secondary to anticoagulants
• Nausea and vomiting due to medications given to treat gastro esophageal reflux disease
• Urinary retention secondary to antihistamine

**Temporary Harm Events Related to Patient Care**

**Pressure ulcers**
• Multiple, stage I pressure ulcers on sacrum, coccyx and buttocks
• Stage I pressure ulcer on buttocks
• Stage I pressure ulcer on heel
• Stage I/II pressure ulcer on leg due to poor-fitting prosthesis
• Progression of Stage I pressure ulcer on heel to Stage II
• Stage II pressure ulcer on buttocks
• Stage I pressure ulcer on heels
• Stage II pressure ulcer at coccyx
• Stage I pressure ulcer on sacral coccyx

**Constipation or obstipation from patient care**
• Symptomatic constipation and ileus secondary to inadequate bowel care
• Prolonged constipation secondary to inadequate bowel care
• Obstipation with impaction associated with inadequate bowel care

**Skin tear, abrasion, or breakdown (other than pressure ulcer) and other minor skin event**
• Skin tear with fungal infection that developed under brace
• Skin excoriation on buttocks

**Fall associated with patient care**
• Fall from bed with minor injuries (elbow, knees, and small skin tear)

**Device trauma or malfunction**
• Clotted arteriovenous shunt (dialysis access device)
• Trauma due to multiple failed Foley catheter insertions

**Edema or volume overload**
• Volume overload manifested by shortness of breath and lower extremity pitting edema

**Other patient care temporary harm events**

### Temporary Harm Events Related to Infections

**Soft tissue or other nonsurgical infection**
• Yeast infection related to persistent moisture in perineal area
• Blisters and erythema on right thigh

**Surgical Site Infection (SSI)**
• Superficial infection that developed on existing wound site
• Surgical site infection at site of hip surgery

CAUTI

Other