

# Adverse and Temporary Harm Events in Rehabilitation Hospitals Designated in Office of Inspector General Report<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG). *Adverse Events in Rehabilitation Hospitals: National Incidence Among Medicare Beneficiaries*, OEI-06-14-00110, July 2016.

### 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**