

Approved Medication Safety Definitions Effective, July 2007

1. **Adverse Drug Reaction** A response to a drug which is noxious and unintended and which occurs at doses normally used in humans for the prophylaxis, diagnosis or therapy of disease or for the modification of physiological function.

Reference: World Health Organization

2. **Adverse Drug Reaction - Significance Level**

- Level 1: ADR occurred without harm to the patient, no monitoring required.
 - Level 2: ADR resulted without harm to patient but with an increased need to monitor the patient.
 - Level 3: ADR resulted in the need for alternative treatment, medication or an increased length of stay.
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Level 4*: ADR resulted in a patient transfer to a higher level of care or required intervention to prevent permanent impairment or damage.

Level 5*: ADR resulted in permanent patient harm.

Level 6*: ADR resulted in patient death.

*** = Significant ADR**

Reference: World Health Organization

3. **Medication Error** Any preventable event that may cause or lead to inappropriate medication use or patient harm, while the medication is in the control of the health care professional, patient or consumer. Such events may be related to professional practice, health care products, procedures, and systems including: prescribing; order communication; product labeling and nomenclature; compounding; dispensing; distribution; administration; education; monitoring; and use.

Reference: National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting Program (NCC MERP)

4. **National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting Program (NCC MERP) Index for Categorizing Medication Errors**

- Category A:** Circumstances or events that have the capacity to cause error.
- Category B:** An error occurred but the error did not reach the patient (an "error of omission" does reach the patient).
- Category C:** An error occurred that reached the patient but did not cause patient harm.
- Category D:** An error 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.
- Category E:** An error occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in temporary harm to the patient and required intervention.
- Category F:** An error occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in temporary harm to the patient and required initial or prolonged hospitalization.
- Category G:** An error occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in permanent patient harm.
- Category H:** An error occurred that may have required intervention necessary to sustain life.
- Category I:** An error occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in the patient's death.

Approved by:

Patient Safety Officers
Pharmacy Directors
Council, Risk Managers
Corporate Patient Safety Committee
Medical Directors
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