PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY
An independent agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

PENNSYLVANIA PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY HARM SCORE TAXONOMY

CODE	DEFINITION
Unsafe Conditions	
A	Circumstances that could cause adverse events (e.g., look-alike medications, confusing equipment).
Event, No Harm	
B1	An event occurred but it did not reach the individual ("near miss" or "close call") because of chance alone.
B2	An event occurred but it did not reach the individual ("near miss" or "close call") because of active recovery efforts by caregivers.
C	An event occurred that reached the individual but did not cause harm and did not require increased monitoring (an error of omission, such as a missed medication dose, *does* reach the individual).
D	An event occurred that required monitoring to confirm that it resulted in no harm and/or required intervention to prevent harm.
Event, Harm	
E	An event occurred that contributed to or resulted in temporary harm and required treatment or intervention.
F	An event occurred that contributed to or resulted in temporary harm and required initial or prolonged hospitalization.
G	An event occurred that contributed to or resulted in permanent harm.
H	An event occurred that resulted in a near-death event (e.g., required intensive care unit care or other intervention necessary to sustain life).
Event, Death	
I	An event occurred that contributed to or resulted in death.

Sources: National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention. NCC MERP index for categorizing medication errors [online]. 2001 Feb [cited 2015 Jan 13]. http://www.nccmerp.org/medErrorCatIndex.html; US Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for Patient Safety. Severity assessment code (SAC) matrix [online]. [cited 2015 Jan 13]. http://www.patientsafety.va.gov/professionals/publications/matrix.asp

For more information, visit http://www.patientsafetyauthority.org.
This table accompanies
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Pa Patient Saf Advis [online] 2015 Mar [cited 2015 Mar 12].
http://patientsafetyauthority.org/ADVISORIES/AdvisoryLibrary/2015/Mar;12(1)/Pages/home.aspx

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