

Trigger Tool Worksheet

Rehabilitation Hospitals



The following table was used by the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) as a worksheet to identify potential adverse events in rehabilitation hospitals. The worksheet includes “triggers” that indicate clinicians should further review the medical record to determine if the patient was harmed. Please see the source document for detail regarding use of the worksheet to identify adverse events.

Care Module Triggers		Medication Module Triggers	
C1	Acute mental status change	M1	Abnormal electrolytes
C2	Aspiration	M2	Abrupt medication stop
C3	Call to physician or family members	M3	Anti-emetic use
C4	Code, Rapid Response Team (RRT), or Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	M4	Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) use
C5	Death	M5	Elevated INR
C6	Drop in hemoglobin/hematocrit	M6	Glucose <50, Glucagon or Dextrose supplement
C7	Studies for emboli, PE or DVT	M7	Abrupt onset hypotension
C8	Fall	M8	Naloxone (Narcan) use
C9	Family complaint	M9	Sodium Polystyrene (Kayexalate administration)
C10	Any infection	M10	Abnormal drug levels
C11	New or increased diuretics	M11	Thrombocytopenia
C12	High or low body temperature	M12	Total WBC < 3,000 or >12,000
C13	In (IRF) stroke or TIA	M13	Vitamin K administration (Aqua-Mephyton)
C14	New onset of incontinence	M14	Antibiotics started in IRF
C15	Insertion or use of urinary catheter	M15	Increasing pain medication needs
C16	Functional Independence Measure™ [FIM™ score] decrease or no change from admission to discharge	M16	Administration of parenteral fluid
C17	Resident incident or accident	M17	Medication-Other
C18	Pressure ulcer	Procedure Module Triggers	
C19	ED visit	P1	Postoperative/postprocedure complication
C20	Transfer to acute care hospital, observation (OBS) unit, or unplanned transfer to another IRF	P2	Procedure reintubation/new BiPAP/new CPAP
C21	Restraint use	P3	Procedure-Other
C22	Rising serum creatinine	Sources: OIG, <i>Adverse Events in Rehabilitation Hospitals: National Incidence Among Medicare Beneficiaries</i> (OEI-06-14-00110), July 2016, available at https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-14-00110.asp .	
C23	Urinary retention		
C24	New onset diarrhea		
C25	Prolonged constipation		
C26	Diagnostic radiology or imaging studies		
C27	New or worsening contracture		
C28	Care-Other		