NCC MERP Index for Categorizing Medication Errors

**Definitions**

**Harm**
Impairment of the physical, emotional, or psychological function or structure of the body and/or pain resulting therefrom.

**Monitoring**
To observe or record relevant physiological or psychological signs.

**Intervention**
May include change in therapy or active medical/surgical treatment.

**Intervention Necessary to Sustain Life**
Includes cardiovascular and respiratory support (e.g., CPR, defibrillation, intubation, etc.)

**Category I:** An error occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in the patient's death

**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 not reach the patient)

**Category C:** An error occurred that may have contributed to or reached the patient but did not cause patient harm

**Category D:** An error occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in temporary harm to the patient and required intervention

**Category E:** An error occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in temporary harm to the patient and required intervention to preclude harm

**Category F:** An error occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in temporary harm to the patient and required monitoring to confirm that it resulted in no harm to the patient and/or required intervention to preclude harm

**Category G:** An error occurred that may have contributed to or resulted in permanent patient harm

**Category H:** An error occurred that required intervention necessary to sustain life


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