**Patient Safety Assessment Scale**

4 **Catastrophic**
Actual or potential death or major permanent loss of function not related to the natural course of the patient’s illness or underlying condition (i.e. acts of commission or omission)

3 **Major**
Actual or potential permanent lessening of bodily functioning not related to the natural course of the patient’s illness or underlying condition (i.e. acts of commission or omission)

2 **Moderate**
Actual or potential increased length of stay or increased level of care for 1 or 2 patients

1 **Minor**
Actual or potential error resulting in no injury, nor increased length of stay nor increased level of care

**Sources of medical errors - Triage questions starting point:**

1 **HUMAN FACTORS - Communication**
Were issues related to patient assessment, lack of information or misinterpretation a factor in this event?

2 **HUMAN FACTORS - Training**
Were issues related to staff training or staff competency a factor in this event?

3 **HUMAN FACTORS - Fatigue, Scheduling**
Were stress, fatigue, conflict in scheduling, staffing issues or environmental distractions factors in this event?

4 **ENVIRONMENT, EQUIPMENT**
Was equipment involved in this event in any way?

5 **RULES, POLICIES, PROCEDURES**
Were appropriate rules/policies/procedures or lack thereof a factor in this event?

6 **PROTECTIVE BARRIERS**
Was failure of a barrier designed to protect the patient, staff, equipment or environment a factor in this event?

Adapted from the National Center for Patient Safety Handbook (April, 2001)

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