

Template: Hospital

Title: Disclosure of Unanticipated Outcomes

Date Developed: _____ Date Revised: _____

Approvals: Governing Body; Medical Staff; Administration

I. Hospital Philosophy:

II. Policy Statement:

III. Definitions of Terms: [examples]

Unanticipated outcome

Adverse event

Types of adverse events:

Adverse drug event

Unintended significant procedural event

Preventable adverse event

Unpreventable adverse event

Medical error

Minor error

Serious error

Near miss

Root cause analysis (RCA)

Sentinel event

Significant harm

Disclosure

Informed consent

IV. Criteria for Disclosure

V. Defining Personnel Roles

A. Disclosure Response Team:

Administrators, Risk Manager, Quality Improvement Manager, Medical Director, Physician(s), Pharmacists, Direct Care Givers

VI. Patient Contact Algorithm

A. Initial patient contact

B. Directing the patient to the appropriate individual(s)

Importance of Maintaining Confidentiality

VII. Investigate Unanticipated Outcome

A. Complete root cause analysis if needed

B. Review and communicate details of investigation with appropriate staff members

VIII. Planning the Disclosure Discussion

Who

When

Setting

Special needs/accommodations

IX. Disclosure Communication Content

Description of factors contributing to outcome if known. If not known, share with patient that you will look into what happened.

Expression of regrets

Apology - if warranted

Affects on current patient treatment plan

Address concerns

Review actions taken to prevent recurrence

Review next steps

X. Documentation

Who

When

Description of factors contributing to outcome

Information was provided

Patient

Responses to patient questions

Patient's level of understanding

Planned follow-up

Who the patient should contact with questions

XI. Follow-Up

Attachments: Templates or Forms
 Coordinating Policies [Patient Communication;
 Patient Informed Consent; Patient Confidentiality]

Medical Mutual's "Practice Tips" are offered as reference information only and are not intended to establish practice standards or serve as legal advice. MMIC recommends you obtain a legal opinion from a qualified attorney for any specific application to your practice.

To access other MMIC Practice Tips go to www.medicalmutual.com
click on Risk Management; then click on Practice Tips