

Root Cause Analysis Matrix

Minimum Scope of Root Cause Analysis for Specific Types of Sentinel Events – October 2005

Note: Updates are highlighted in **RED**

Detailed inquiry into these areas is expected when conducting a root cause analysis for the specified type of sentinel event. Inquiry into areas not checked (or listed) should be conducted as appropriate to the specific event under review.

	Suicide (24 hr care)	Med. Error	Procedural Complication	Wrong site surgery	Treatment delay	Restraint death	Elopement death	Assault/ rape/ homicide	Transfusion death	Patient Abduction	Unanticipated death of full term infant	Unintended Retention of foreign body	Fall related
Behavioral assessment process (1)	X					X	X	X					
Physical assessment process (2)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X
Patient identification process		X		X					X				
Patient observation procedures	X				X	X	X	X	X		X		X
Care planning process	X		X			X	X				X		X
Continuum of care	X	X			X	X							X
Staffing levels	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Orientation & training of staff	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Competency assessment/ credentialing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Supervision of staff (3)	X	X	X		X	X			X			X	
Communication with patient/ family	X	X		X	X	X	X			X			X
Communication among staff members	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Availability of information	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X		X
Adequacy of technological support		X	X										
Equipment maintenance/ management		X	X		X	X					X		X
Physical environment (4)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X
Security systems and processes	X						X	X		X			
Medication Management (5)		X	X		X				X		X		X

(1) Includes the process for assessing patient's risk to self (and to others, in cases of assault, rape, or homicide where a patient is the assailant).

(2) Includes search for contraband.

(3) Includes supervision of physicians-in-training.

(4) Includes furnishings; hardware (e.g., bars, hooks, rods); lighting; distractions.

(5) Includes selection & procurement, storage, ordering & transcribing, preparing & dispensing, administration, and monitoring.