

Trigger Tool Worksheet

Skilled Nursing Facilities



The following table was used by the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) as a worksheet to identify potential adverse events in skilled nursing facilities (SNF). The worksheet includes “triggers” that indicate clinicians should further review the medical record to determine if the patient was harmed. Please see the source documents for additional 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 or Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	M4	Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) use
C5	Death	M5	Elevated INR
C6	Drop in hemoglobin/hematocrit	M6	Epinephrine use
C7	Studies for emboli: PE or DVT	M7	Glucose <50, Glucagon or Dextrose supplement
C8	Fall	M8	Abrupt onset hypotension
C9	Family complaint	M9	Naloxone (Narcan) use
C10	Any infection	M10	Sodium Polystyrene (Kayexalate administration)
C11	New or increased diuretics	M11	Abnormal drug levels
C12	High or low body temperature	M12	Thrombocytopenia
C13	In (SNF) stroke or TIA	M13	Total WBC < 3000
C14	New onset of incontinence	M14	Vitamin K administration (Aqua-Mephyton)
C15	Insertion or use of urinary catheter	M15	Antibiotics started in SNF
C16	Significant Change in Status Assessment in MDS (SCSA)	M16	Increasing pain medication needs
C17	Resident incident or accident	M17	Administration of parenteral fluid
C18	Pressure ulcer	M18	Rising ALT/AST liver function test
C19	ED visit	M19	Medication-Other
C20	Transfer to acute care hospital or observation (OBS) unit	Procedure Module Triggers	
C21	Restraint use	P1	Postoperative/post-procedure complication
C22	Rising serum creatinine	P2	Procedure reintubation/BiPAP/new CPAP
C23	Urinary retention	P3	Procedure-Other
C24	New onset diarrhea	Sources: Adler L, Moore J, Federico F. <i>IHI Skilled Nursing Facility Trigger Tool for Measuring Adverse Events</i> . Cambridge, MA, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, November 2015, available at www.ihf.org . OIG, <i>Adverse Events in Skilled Nursing Facilities: National Incidence Among Medicare Beneficiaries</i> (OEI-06-11-00370), February 2014, available at https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-11-00370.asp .	
C25	Prolonged constipation		
C26	Diagnostic radiology or imaging studies		
C27	Care-Other		