

Anatomy of a Near Miss



Good Catch!

A near miss or a close call is an event that did not reach a patient but only because of chance or timely intervention. It's a good catch and a WIN for patients, staff and hospitals because it presents the opportunity to take corrective action and prevent future risk or harm.

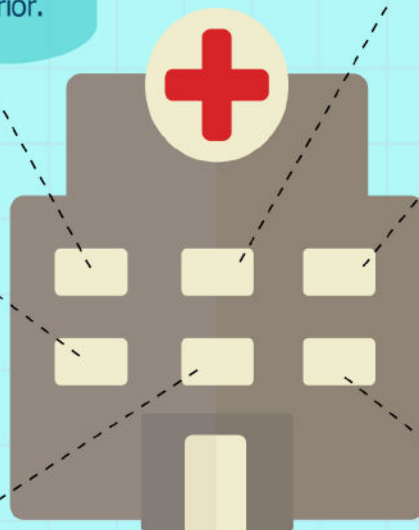
A good catch can be made in any department by any clinician, manager or staff member.

A patient, who regularly takes Coumadin for a clotting disorder, is scheduled for surgery. During a pre-op discussion with the anesthesiologist, the patient reveals he was not aware of instructions to cease taking the medication in the days prior. His surgery is postponed.

A nurse enters a patient's room with a medication to be administered. Upon checking the patient's armband, she realizes she has the wrong medication.

A social worker discovers physician notes showing up in the wrong patients' EHR charts and brings the issue to the attention of the nurse manager who calls in IT to investigate. IT detects a glitch in the EHR's mapping mechanism.

A patient was moved to the OR without Hand-Off of Care being appropriately communicated or documented.



Following surgery, OR staff note a smoldering odor and discover a warming unit that is turned "OFF" but is plugged in and secured to an IV pole and touching the patient bed. Further inspection reveals hot, singed coils and bed linens as well as exposed wires on the back of the warming unit. The device is pulled out of service immediately.

A technician discovers that a patient, deemed high risk for falls, has been returned to a chair without a chair alarm.

Near Miss Reporting is all about LEARNING!

A near miss caught today could prevent an occurrence from happening tomorrow! See one. Report one.



Recognize. Report. Reward.