

1. “Never” and “No pay”

Events which overlap between the NQF and CMS definitions of “never events”

- Surgery on the wrong body part
- Surgery on the wrong patient
- Wrong surgery on a patient
- Foreign object left in patient after surgery
- Death/disability associated with intravascular air embolism
- Death/disability associated with incompatible blood
- Death/disability associated with hypoglycemia (HAC’s include diabetic ketoacidosis, nonketotic hyperosmolar coma, hypoglycemic coma, secondary diabetes with ketoacidosis, secondary diabetes with hyperosmolarity)
- Stage 3 or 4 pressure ulcers after admission
- Death/disability associated with electric shock
- Death/disability associated with a burn incurred within facility
- Death/disability associated with a fall within facility

2. “Never”

Events which should never happen according to the NQF, but are not listed on the CMS “never events”).

- Postoperative death in a healthy patient
- Implantation of wrong egg
- Death/disability associated with use of contaminated drugs, devices, or biologics
- Death/disability associated with use of device other than as intended
- Infant discharged to wrong person
- Death/disability due to patient elopement
- Patient suicide or attempted suicide resulting in disability
- Death/disability associated with medication error
- Maternal death/disability with low risk delivery
- Death/disability associated with hyperbilirubinemia in neonates
- Death/disability due to spinal manipulative therapy
- Incident due to wrong oxygen or other gas
- Death/disability associated with use of restraints within facility
- Impersonating a health care provider (i.e., physician, nurse)
- Abduction of a patient
- Sexual assault of a patient within or on facility grounds
- Death/disability resulting from physical assault within/on facility grounds

3. “No pay”

The list of controversy: Adverse events which are classified by the CMS as nonreimbursable “never events”, but lack the according definition by the NQF.

- Catheter-associated urinary tract infection
- Vascular catheter-associated infection
- Surgical site infection following coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) - mediastinitis
- Surgical site infection following bariatric surgery (laparoscopic gastric bypass, gastroenterostomy, laparoscopic gastric restrictive surgery)
- Surgical site infection following orthopedic procedures (spine, neck, shoulder, elbow)
- Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)/pulmonary embolism (PE) in total knee replacement and hip replacement