

“NEVER EVENTS”

The Washington State Hospital Association, the Washington State Medical Association and the Washington State Ambulatory Surgery Center Association say medical providers will stop billing patients for procedures that result in any of these situations:

Surgical events:

- Surgery on wrong body part
- Surgery on wrong patient
- Wrong surgical procedure
- Unintended retention of foreign object post surgery/procedure
- Postoperative death in ASA Class 1 (healthy) patient

Product or device events:

- Patient death, serious disability from use or function of contaminated drugs, devices, or biologics
- Patient death, serious disability associated with the use or function of a device in patient care in which the device is used or functions other than as intended
- Patient death, serious disability associated with intravascular air embolism

Patient protection events:

- Infant discharged to the wrong person
- Patient death or serious disability associated with patient elopement (disappearance)
- Patient suicide or attempted suicide resulting in serious disability

Care-management events:

- Patient death, serious disability from medication error
- Patient death, serious disability associated with a hemolytic reaction due to administration of ABO/HLA incompatible blood or blood products
- Maternal death, serious disability (low-risk pregnancy)
- Patient death, serious disability associated with hypoglycemia
- Death or serious disability (kernicterus) associated with hyperbilirubinemia
- Stage 3/4 pressure ulcers
- Patient death, serious disability due to spinal manipulative therapy
- Artificial insemination with the wrong donor sperm or wrong egg

Environmental events:

- Patient death, serious disability associated with electric shock
- Any incident in which a line designated for oxygen or other gas to be delivered contains the wrong gas or toxic substances
- Patient death, serious disability associated with a burn incurred while hospitalized

- Patient death, serious disability associated with a fall
- Patient death, serious disability associated with the use of restraints

Criminal events:

- Care ordered by someone impersonating a physician, nurse, pharmacist, or other licensed health-care provider
- Abduction of a patient of any age
- Sexual assault on a patient
- Death, significant injury of patient or staff from physical assault

Source: Washington State Hospital Association