



National Quality Forum: Errors That Should Never Happen

A nonprofit health care safety agency, the National Quality Forum, has created a list of avoidable things that should never happen. As you read through this partial list, think about those that are pertinent to what you do. If you were to put together a list of things that should never happen in medical transportation, what would you include?

- Patient death or serious disability associated with the use of contaminated drugs, devices or biologicals.
- Patient death or serious disability associated with the misuse or malfunction of a device.
- Patient suicide or attempted suicide resulting in serious disability.
- Patient death or serious disability associated with a medication error.
- Maternal death or serious disability associated with labor or delivery in a low-risk pregnancy.
- Patient death or serious disability associated with hypoglycemia.
- Patient death or serious disability associated with an electric shock.
- Any incident in which a line designated for oxygen or other gas to be delivered to a patient contains the wrong gas or is contaminated.
- Patient death or serious disability associated with a burn.
- Patient death or serious disability associated with a fall.
- Patient death or serious disability associated with the use of restraints.
- Any care ordered or provided by an impostor.
- Abduction of a patient.
- Sexual assault on a patient.
- Death of a patient or staff member resulting from a physical assault.

There were 28 items on the NQF list which were developed for hospitals. If you're interested in developing a list of things that should never happen in medical transportation, send your input to Mike Szczygiel. meszczygiel@thomcoins.com

Kill the Bugs! Don't Just Move Them Around!

We all work really diligently to keep our units clean so that neither our bodies nor those of our patients pick up pathogenic microbial passengers. One of the newer tools (introduced in 2005) is the disposable wipe, designed for cleaning contaminated surfaces. A paper presented at this year's American Society of Microbiology meeting demonstrated that if you use an anti-microbial wipe more than once, you actually transfer bacteria from one surface to another. Remember, anti-microbial wipes are effective, but only when *one wipe is used to wipe one surface one time.*

