

CANADIAN DISCLOSURE GUIDELINES

Circumstances When Disclosure Should Take Place

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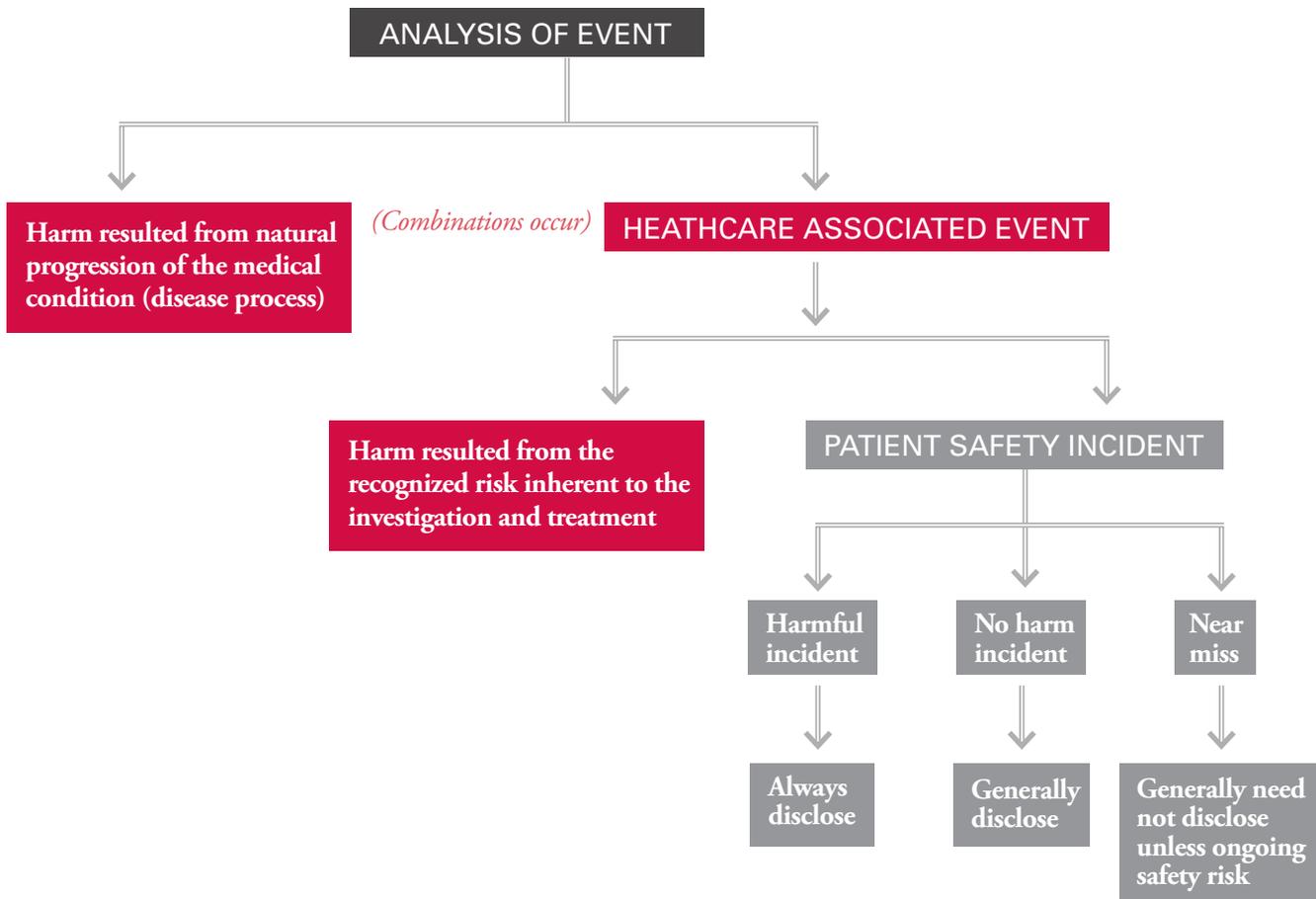
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Diagram B: CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN DISCLOSURE SHOULD TAKE PLACE



Disclosure must occur if there has been any harm related to a patient safety incident, or if there is a risk of potential future harm. In the case of a near miss, disclosure is discretionary based on whether it is felt the patient would benefit from knowing, for example if there is a residual safety risk.

This diagram is also meant to demonstrate that a discussion with the patient should take place regardless of the origin of the harm. Although the term “disclosure” is used to describe the communications after a patient safety incident, any harm resulting from the disease process or healthcare should be discussed with the patient.

Harm that has resulted from the inherent risks of an investigation or treatment should always be communicated to the patient. Such harm should not prematurely be attributed to simply “a complication” of the investigation or procedure. Incidents should be appropriately examined to understand all of the contributors involved. An analysis may indicate a combination of reasons actually resulted in the harm.