

Sample Failure Mode, Effects, and Criticality Analysis for Hypothetical Medication Use Process in O.R.

Process	Pharmacy	Dispense	O.R.	Transfer	Sterile field	Administer	Patient
Potential failure modes	Look-alike drugs Multiple concentrations	Wrong drug Wrong concentration		Switched drugs Contamination		Wrong drug Wrong dose	
Potential effect on patient	Potentially serious, if dispensed	Potentially serious, if administered		Potentially serious, if administered		Potentially serious, depending on drug	
Likelihood of reaching patient	Low	Medium		High		High	
Criticality of failure mode	Low	Medium		High		High	
Root causes	Open formulary Ambiguous labels	Alphabetical storage Ambiguous labels		Unnecessarily complex process Approved procedure not consistently followed		No means of verifying drug/dose after transfer to sterile field	
Strategies	P&T Committee review/redesign of formulary content & process	Redesign storage system. Introduce bar coding.		Simplify procedure. Eliminate open-vessels for IV drugs. Monitor compliance.		No action needed. Risk eliminated earlier in process.	