Revision of NCC MERP Categorizing Medication Errors Index

Rockville, Md. – November 2022

The Council originally adopted the *Index for Categorizing Medication Errors* to classify an error according to the severity of the outcome. The Index was designed to help health care practitioners and institutions track medication errors in a consistent, systematic manner. The Index considers factors such as whether the error reached the patient and, if the patient was harmed, to what degree. The Council encourages the use of the Index in all health care delivery settings and by researchers and vendors of medication error tracking software.

In 2001, the circular configuration was created, which attributes an equal area to each of the nine medication error categories (designated as Categories A through I). Each category has been associated with designated color:

Medication Error Category	Error Outcome Severity	Associated Circular Color
Category A	No Error	**Red**
Category B, C, D	Error, No Harm	**Yellow**
Category E,F,G,H	Error, Harm	**Orange**
Category I	Error, Death	**Green**

In 2022, the council revised the colors associated with the circular configuration to better associate the colors with the error outcome severity.

Medication Error Category	Error Outcome Severity	Associated Circular Color
Category A	No Error	**Yellow**
Category B, C, D	Error, No Harm	**Gold**
Category E,F,G,H	Error, Harm	**Orange**
Category I	Error, Death	**Red**

For a copy of the revised Index for Categorizing Medication Errors, please visit the NCC MERP website at www.nccmerp.org.