



Revision of NCC MERP Categorizing Medication Errors Index

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After the conviction of former registered nurse RaDonda Vaught, following a fatal medication error, the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention (NCC MERP) is concerned about the negative impact on all healthcare practitioners.

In 2011, the NCC MERP published a statement opposing the criminalization of errors in healthcare. The council understands that human errors are inadvertent and unintentional and believes that criminalizing human error is a deterrent to the reporting of close calls and errors, learning from reporting, and subsequent error prevention based on information shared by staff through reporting programs. As a result, unsafe systems may be perpetuated rather than improved.

Criminalization does not prevent human error and the council feels that a transparent, fair, and consistently applied process should be used to investigate health care errors and respond accordingly to the results.

For a copy of the updated statement opposing the criminalization of errors in healthcare “Statement Opposing the Criminalization of Errors in Healthcare” please visit the NCC MERP website at www.nccmerp.org.