



# Common Mistakes In Healthcare FMEAs



Function Perf Req	Potential Failure Mode	Potential Effect of Failure	S E V	Potential Cause / Mech of Failure	O C C	Current Controls (P) & (D)	D E T	R P N	Rec Action
Reduce the risk of retained foreign objects	Not separating sponges, sutures when counting	Wrong count, last count should be wrong if not counted at first, retained foreign object	9	Not visualizing each individual piece by both circulating RN & CST, Being in a hurry, not knowing the policy	3		8	216	Train new staff & students on correct method of surgical counts Educate staff in department mtgs / skills lab

**The example above, is a line from an actual Healthcare FMEA. Below is a re-ordering of the same FMEA. Can you see the differences?**

All foreign objects Removed after Surgery No foreign object left	Retained foreign Object - Sponge	HAC—lost revenue due to non-reimbursed expense (8) Infection (9) Worse (10)	10	Failure to reconcile all foreign objects post surgery	2	Post surgical physical counts (8) Training (P) SOP / WI (P)	8	160	Implement post-surgical scan
All foreign objects Removed after Surgery No foreign object left	Retained foreign Object - Sponge	HAC—lost revenue due to non-reimbursed expense (8) Infection (9) Worse (10)	10	Foreign objects miscounted	3	Post surgical physical counts (8) Training (P) SOP / WI (P)	8	240	Add redundant object counts (numbered) Add post-surgical Checklist Implement post-surgical scan
All foreign objects Removed after Surgery No foreign object left	Retained foreign Object - Sponge	HAC—lost revenue due to non-reimbursed expense (8) Infection (9) Worse (10)	10	Surgery running late counter hurrying	1	Post surgical physical counts (8) Training (P) SOP / WI (P)	8	80	Implement post-surgical scan



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Reduce Medication Errors	Administered to wrong patient	Serious ADR or death	8	Nurse failed to verify drug to be administered	2		1	16	Training for all nurses on 5 rights for med. admin. Ensure implementation of patient I.D. prior to admin. meds.

**The example above, is a line from an actual Healthcare FMEA. Below is a re-ordering of the same FMEA. Can you see the differences?**

Administer medication Correct medication Correct dose Correct patient Admin on time	Medication administered to wrong patient	Minor Discomfort (6) Patient becomes Sick (7) HAC – lost revenue due to non-reimbursed expense (8) Serious ADR or death (10)	10	Nurse failed to verify patient to be administered	2	None (10)	10	200	Implement Patient monitoring. i.e. blood pressure  Implement patient bar coding
Administer medication Correct medication Correct dose Correct patient Admin on time	Medication administered to wrong patient	Minor Discomfort (6) Patient becomes Sick (7) HAC – lost revenue due to non-reimbursed expense (8) Serious ADR or death (10)	10	No cross- check of patient identification	2	Visual (8)	8	100	Implement Patient monitoring. i.e. blood pressure  Implement patient bar coding



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Infection control sheet filled out.	Unnecessary Inappropriate Precaution	Risk spread of Infection in the dept. Becomes overwhelmed with unnecessary precautions, tend to be ignored, necessary ones too.	2	Inadequate assessment info and time to decide.	8		8	128	Ask questions in step 1 to protect Triage nurse but complete infection control form in step 4

**The example above, is a line from an actual Healthcare FMEA. Below is a re-ordering of the same FMEA. Can you see the differences?**

Infection control sheet filled out. Filled out Correct info Correct spelling On time Legible	Infection Control Sheet not filled out	Risk of infection (7) Infection spreading to other areas of hospital (7) Visitors become infected (8) HAC – lost revenue due to non-reimbursed expense (8)	8	Nurse fails to fill out sheet	8	Visual (8)	8	512	Add redundant check with checklist
Infection control sheet filled out. Filled out Correct info Correct spelling On time Legible	Infection Control Sheet has Incorrect information	Risk of infection (7) Infection spreading to other areas of hospital (7) Visitors become infected (8) HAC – lost revenue due to non-reimbursed expense (8)	8	The patient's chart is mis-read	4	Visual (8)	8	256	Add redundant check with checklist



## Contact PlanTech

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