



Japan Council for Quality Health Care

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/  
Adverse Event Information

Medical Safety  
Information

# Medical Safety Information released in 2017

No.136, March 2018



Medical Safety Information No.122–No.133 was issued from January to December 2017. The full list of bulletins is shown below.

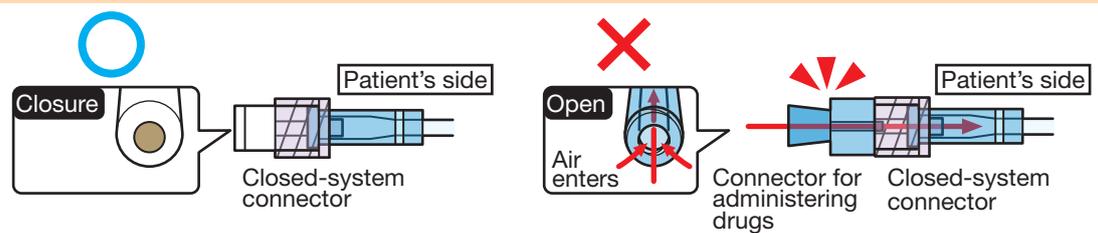
No.	Title
No.122	★ Error in Measuring Body Weight Before Dialysis
No.123	Film Dressing Affixed to Permanent Tracheostomy
No.124	Medical Safety Information released in 2016
No.125	Insufficient Understanding of Drugs to be Halted Pre-operatively —Oral Contraceptives—
No.126	Blood Sample Taken from Limb During an Infusion in the Same Limb
No.127	Medical Safety Information released from 2013 to 2015
No.128	Wrong Site Surgery (Right/Left) —Neurosurgical Procedures—
No.129	Contraindicated Combined Administration of Drugs (1st Follow-up Report)
No.130	★ Air Embolism Due to a Central Venous Line Left Open
No.131	★ Misunderstanding of Insulin Units (1st Follow-up Report)
No.132	★ Patient Falls While Using the Overbed Table for Support
No.133	★ Chest Drain Left Open to Air

For titles with ★, recurrent and similar events had been reported after the release of each issue until December 31, 2017.

◆ The following recurrent and similar events occurred.

**No.130 Air Embolism Due to a Central Venous Line Left Open**

The nurse removed the infusion line from the central venous catheter's closed-system connector because the patient was going to have a shower. The nurse mistakenly believed that the closed-system connector required a protective plug and, thinking that a connector used for administering drugs was such a plug, inserted it into the closed-system connector. Accordingly, the central venous catheter was left open to the air. The patient subsequently complained of dyspnea and their SpO<sub>2</sub> fell to 77%. An air embolism was suspected.



**No.132 Patient Falls While Using the Overbed Table for Support**

The patient put on their shoes at the bedside so that they could go to the toilet. When the patient placed one hand on the overbed table and raised one foot, intending to adjust the heel of their shoe, the overbed table moved, causing the patient to lose their balance and fall, resulting in a right intertrochanteric fracture.

**No.133 Chest Drain Left Open to Air**

The physician inserted a chest drain, drained 300 mL of pleural effusion, and then clamped the drain. When they did so, there was no sterile distilled water in the water seal chamber of the chest drainage bag. The nurse asked the physician, "Is it all right that there is no water in it?" but the physician assumed that there was sterile distilled water in the bag's water seal chamber and did not check it. When the chest was drained again the following day, only 10 mL could be removed and the patient was observed to have subcutaneous emphysema from the neck to the precordium three hours later. The physician ordered chest drainage with continuous suction of -5 cm H<sub>2</sub>O. X-ray imaging subsequently revealed an increase in subcutaneous emphysema and another physician noticed that there was no water seal.

◆ Other recurrent and similar events are included in the Annual Report 2017.

\* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of the "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See quarterly reports and annual reports posted on the Japan Council for Quality Health Care website for details of the Project.  
<http://www.med-safe.jp/>

\* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but cannot be guaranteed in the future.

\* This information is intended neither to limit the discretion of healthcare providers nor to impose certain obligations or responsibilities on them.



Department of Adverse Event Prevention  
Japan Council for Quality Health Care

1-4-17 Kandamisaki-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0061 JAPAN  
Direct Tel: +81-3-5217-0252 Direct Fax: +81-3-5217-0253  
<http://www.med-safe.jp/>