



Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Ste. 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701
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Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN
Executive Director

May 9, 2012

Dear Chief Nursing Officer:

In an effort to promote safe nursing practice, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing worked with member boards to initiate the Taxonomy of Error, Root Cause Analysis and Practice-responsibility (TERCAP©) Adverse Event Reporting System. The goal of TERCAP© is to learn from incidents involving the breakdown in nursing practice in order to evaluate the multiple factors that may be involved in practice errors.

In 2011, the 82nd Legislature passed SB 193 allowing the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) to adopt a standardized error classification system, such as the TERCAP©, for utilization by nursing peer review committees. Consistent with SB 193, you and other representatives from your facility are invited to participate in a pilot program wherein selected hospitals would begin sharing data with the Board. The pilot calls for peer review committees to utilize the TERCAP© to identify practice issues normally investigated during the peer review process. Once the committee determines that the nursing practice error is not required to be reported as a part of a complaint or disciplinary process, the incident will be entered into the TERCAP© online state-wide error reporting system. Information will be de-identified and is confidential.

Recognizing and highlighting factors involved in nursing practice breakdown incidents will promote a better understanding of the etiology of nursing practice errors. Further, evaluating causative factors and developing methods to mitigate nursing practice errors should facilitate a proactive approach in promoting patient safety; an approach that the Board believes is the best way to fulfill its mission to protect the public.

The Pilot Project will begin in August 2012 and last for two years. An orientation and training related to the Pilot Project and use of the TERCAP© instrument will be held on Friday July 13, 2012 in Austin, Texas. If you and your nursing peer review committee would be interested in using the TERCAP© instrument as a template for your peer review proceedings, please contact my executive assistant, Laura Lewis at laura.lewis@bon.texas.gov or at 512-305-7653. For more information go to <http://www.bon.texas.gov/practice/> and click on TERCAP Pilot Project.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Thomas, PhD, RN
Director of Nursing
Texas Board of Nursing

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