

Appendix 1: Classification of adverse drug-related events¹⁻³

Drug-related event	Definition
Adverse drug reaction	Any noxious, unintended or undesired effect of a drug that occurs at doses used in humans for prophylaxis, diagnosis or treatment; includes all reactions when drugs are used at appropriate doses and may include abnormal laboratory values
Untreated indication	Any noxious, unintended or undesired effect resulting from failure to treat a known indication
Improper drug selection	Any noxious, unintended or undesired effect due to use of a drug not optimal for treatment of a confirmed indication
Subtherapeutic dosage	Any noxious, unintended or undesired effect caused by failure to receive sufficient drug dosage or sufficient duration of therapy for a given indication or patient
Supratherapeutic dosage	Any noxious, unintended or undesired effect caused by excessive drug dose or excessive duration of therapy for a given indication or patient
Nonadherence	Any noxious, unintended or undesired effect caused by failure to receive a drug as prescribed by a health care provider
Drug use without indication	Any noxious, unintended or undesired effect caused by use of a drug for which there is no clear indication
Drug interaction	Any noxious, unintended or undesired effect caused by the concomitant administration of 2 or more drugs

References

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2. Hepler CD, Strand LM. Opportunities and responsibilities in pharmaceutical care. *Am J Hosp Pharm* 1990;47:533-43.
3. Hallas J, Harvald B, Gram LF, et al. Drug related hospital admissions: the role of definitions and intensity of data collection and the possibility of prevention. *J Intern Med* 1990;228:83-90.