Adverse Event Decision *Pathway*

FOR NURSE LEADERS/ADMINISTRATORS

NCSBN

Leading Regulatory Excellence

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The Adverse Event Decision Pathway (AEDP) was created in response to requests from nurse leaders and regulatory bodies for a tool to assist nurse leaders/administrators responsible for evaluation of adverse events and the regulatory reporting of unprofessional conduct or practice errors committed by nurses. This tool was developed in collaboration with nursing leaders from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL).

Following principles of the systems approach and just culture, the AEDP suggestions include a complete investigation of the adverse event, as well as the nurse's behavioral choices which may have contributed to any adverse event. The AEDP reflects a balance between justice and fairness on the one hand and the need to learn from a mistake and disciplinary action when appropriate on the other hand (Russell & Radtke, 2014).

The jurisdiction's regulatory body may also have specific requirements for special or mandatory reporting to the regulatory body. Information regarding reporting requirements is found in the individual laws and rules of the jurisdiction. Specific report format and process can be found on the juridiction's website.

Russell, K. A. & Radtke, B. K. (2014). An evidence-based tool for regulatory decision making: The regulatory decision pathway. Journal of Nursing Regulation, 5(2), 5-9.

DIRECTIONS

1. In partnership with the facility quality team, conduct an internal investigation on the adverse event occurrence.

2. With your data from the investigation, use the pathway starting with the question at the top, and progress to other questions based on affirmative or negative answers.

DEFINITIONS

Regulatory Body
Jurisdiction's governmental agency responsible for the regulation of nursing practice. Includes any other terminology to refer to the regulatory authority (i.e. board, commission, examiner, department or college)

Mitigating Factor
Extenuating, explanatory or justifying fact, situation or circumstance

Reasonably Prudent Nurse
A nurse who uses good judgment in providing care according to accepted standards

Remedial Education
Education or training to correct a knowledge or skill deficit

Substantial Risk
A significant possibility that an adverse outcome may occur

System
An organization's operational methods, processes or infrastructure/environment

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This tool is designed to assist you in determining action steps for **adverse events/errors** or **unprofessional conduct** involving a nurse. The pathway provides questions regarding system error, mitigating factors and behavioral choices of the nurse which, when used with data from your investigation, will promote a consistent framework for making important patient safety decisions.*

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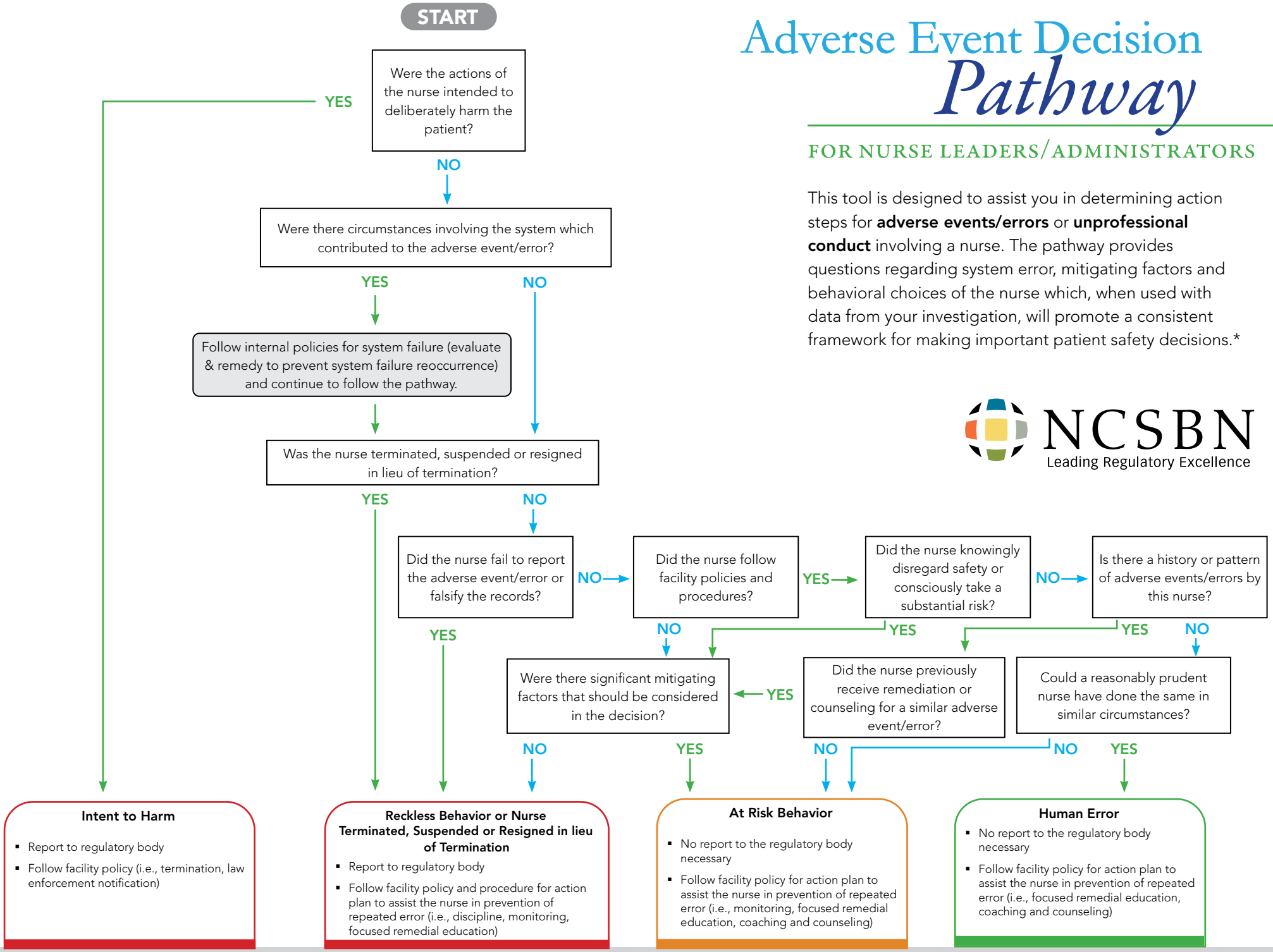

*In addition to the considerations in the pathway, nurse leaders should be aware of (1) Laws and regulations requirements for special or mandatory reporting to the regulatory body and (2) provisions in the jurisdiction's law/regulations for reporting death or serious injury resulting from adverse event/error.

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