TERCAP® Case Criteria

Taxonomy of Error, Root Cause Analysis and Practice-responsibility (TERCAP®)
NCSBN’s Adverse Event Reporting System for Practice Breakdown*

*Practice breakdown is defined broadly as the disruption or absence of any of the aspects of good practice. Often those are cases involving errors or near misses.

Cases meeting the following criteria will be included in the NCSBN aggregate data analysis:

1. The case involves a nurse who was involved in the practice breakdown.

2. The case involves one or more identifiable patients (if more than one patient was involved, data is to be gathered and submitted on the patient with the most harm or risk of harm).

3. The case is one in which the board substantiates that a practice breakdown occurred and the case is resolved with or without disciplinary action.

4. The case allows for all or almost all of the data collection instrument fields to be completed.

5. Ideally, TERCAP is used on cases when a nurse is initially reported to a board of nursing to ensure that the information requested in the data fields can be obtained.

6. Cases involving diversion /substance abuse/chemical impairment should be included only when they are associated with practice breakdown.

TERCAP® is not meant for cases in which the nurse enters an alternative program where there is no investigation or determination that there was practice breakdown.