ADVERSE EVENTS

MUSC Medical University of South Carolina | Research

IRB HRPP 4.7 Unanticipated Problems and Adverse Events

March 2026

WHAT IS AN ADVERSE EVENT

- An Adverse event (AE) is any untoward or unfavorable medical occurrence in a human subject, including any abnormal sign (for example, abnormal physical exam or laboratory finding), symptom, or disease, temporarily associated with the subject's participation in the research, whether or not considered related to the subject's participation in the research.

- Adverse events encompass both physical and psychological harms and occur most frequently in the context of biomedical research, although they can occur in the context of social and behavioral research.

EXAMPLES OF ADVERSE EVENTS

Upper respiratory tract infection

Broken wrist

Nausea and vomiting

Nightmares

A SERIOUS ADVERSE EVENT (SAE) IS ANY ADVERSE EVENT TEMPORALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE SUBJECT'S PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH THAT MEETS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

Results in death
Is life-threatening (places the subject at immediate risk of death from the event as it occurred)
Requires inpatient hospitalization (initial or prolongued)
Results in disability or permanent damage
Results in congenital anomaly/birth defect
Any other adverse event that, based upon appropriate medial judgement, may jeopardize the subject's health and may require medical or surgical intervention to prevent one of the other outcomes listed above

UNEXPECTED ADVERSE EVENT

An unexpected adverse event, as defined by the FDA, is any adverse event where the specificity or severity is not consistent with the current Investigator Brochure; or, if an Investigator Brochure is not required or available, the specificity or severity is not consistent with the risk information described in the general investigational plan or elsewhere in the current application.

POSSIBLY/RELATED TO RESEARCH

POSSIBLY RELATED TO RESEARCH

- Refers to the reasonable possibility that the AE may have been associated with the procedures involved in the research

RELATED TO RESEARCH

- Refers to an incident, experience or outcome that is likely to have resulted from participation in the research study

DEATHS ON STUDY

- Investigators are required to report to the IRB any death of a MUSC research subject within 24 hours of learning about the death, unless the death is expected (e.g., due to disease progression).

- Deaths that are:
  - Anticipated (e.g., due to disease progression)
  - If the research is a minimal risk, non-interventional study (e.g. chart review, registry, or biorepository)

  may be reported at the time of continuing review

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNAL DEATHS

- All internal deaths during the study, or 30 days post termination from study intervention, are required to be reported as adverse events unless they are expected (i.e., due to disease progression).

UPIRSOS UNANTICIPATED PROBLEM INVOLVING RISKS TO SUBJECTS OR OTHERS

Adverse Events that are:

- Unexpected
- Related/Possibly related to participation in research
- Serious

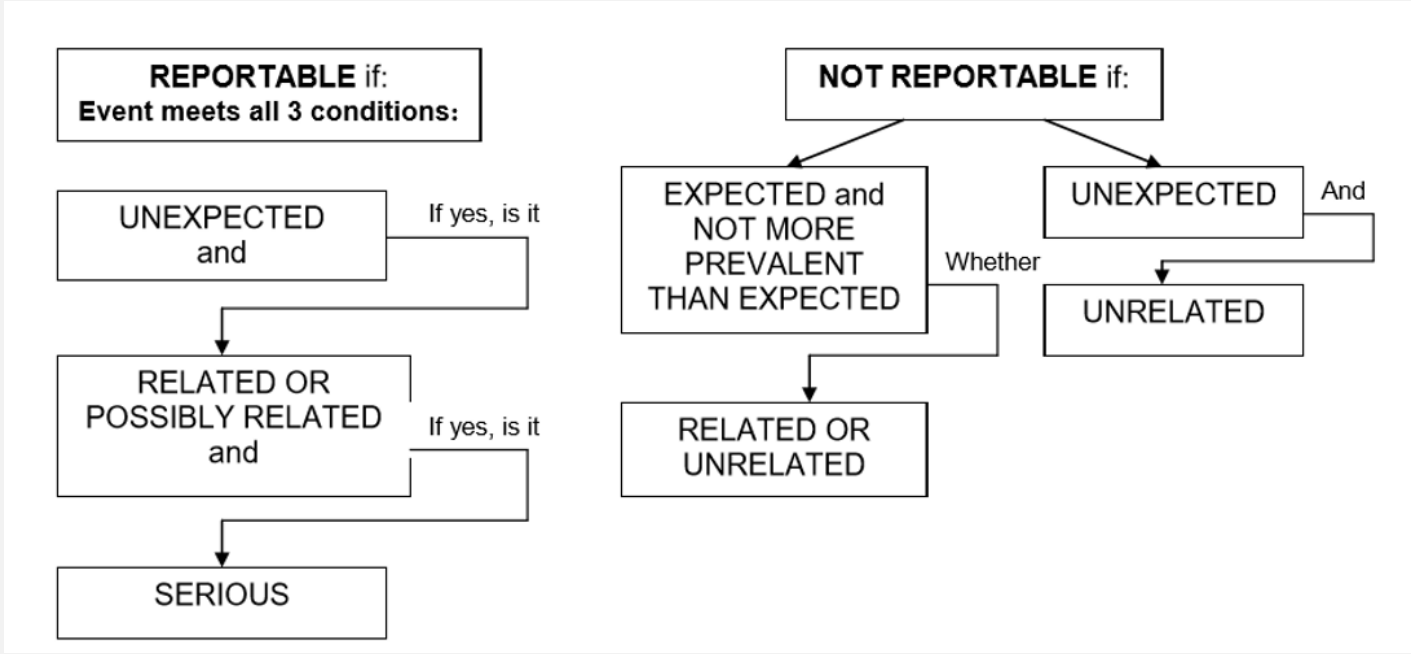
are the most important subset of AE's representing unanticipated problems, because such events suggest that the research places subjects or others at a greater risk of physical/psychological harm than was previously known or recognized.

These events warrant consideration of substantive changes in the protocol and/or ICF process/document or other corrective actions in order to protect the safety, welfare or rights of subjects.

ADVERSE EVENT REPORTING

- FDA regulations and clinical trial agreements require prompt reporting of SAE drug events and SAE device effects to the sponsor and FDA.
- Sponsors are responsible for reporting these events to investigators at other institutions who are conducting research under the relevant IND/IDE
  - *These events only need to be reported to the MUSC IRB (whether they occur at MUSC or an external site) when they constitute an unanticipated problem involving risks to subjects or others.*

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNAL ADVERSE EVENTS



IRB ACTIONS

- After reviewing a serious adverse event, the IRB actions may include:
  - Acknowledgement without further recommendation
  - A request for further clarification from the investigator
  - Protocol changes
  - Consent/assent form changes
  - Informing currently enrolled participants and/or re-consenting subjects
  - Other actions deemed appropriate by the IRB

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

MUSC Policy: Section 4.7 Unanticipated Problems and Adverse Events Policy and Procedures

DHHS: https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/guidance/reviewing-unanticipated-problems/index.html