# Supplemental Table 1. Validated Tool for Applying Error Severity Scores

# Instrument for characterizing pharmacists' clinical activities<sup>8</sup>

### Severity of error in medication error

Assess the appropriateness of the order or its deviation from the standard of practice.

### A. Potentially lethal

- High potential for life-threatening adverse reactions
- Potentially lifesaving drug at a dosage too low for the disease being treated
- High dosage ( $\geq 10$  times normal) of drug with low therapeutic index.

#### B. Serious

- Route of administration could lead to severe toxicity
- Low dosage of drug for serious disease in patient with acute distress
- High dosage (4-10 times normal) of drug with low therapeutic index
- Dosage resulted in serum drug concentration in potentially toxic range
- Drug could exacerbate the patient's condition (related to warnings or contraindications)
- Misspelling or mix-up in medication order could lead to dispensing of wrong drug
- Documented allergy to drug
- High dosage (10 times normal) of drug without low therapeutic index
- Omission of pretest for drug hypersensitivity

## C. Significant

- High dosage (1.5-4 times normal) of drug with low therapeutic index
- Drug dosage too low for patient's condition
- High dosage (1.5-10 times normal) of drug without low therapeutic index
- Errant dual drug-drug therapy for single condition
- Inappropriate dosage interval
- Omission from medication order

## D. Minor

- Incomplete information in medication order

- Unavailable or inappropriate dosage form
- Nonformulary drug
- Noncompliance with standard formulations and hospital policies
- Illegible, ambiguous, or nonstandard abbreviations

## E. No error

- Information or clarification requested by physician or other health care professional from pharmacist
- Cost savings only