Table: PCA Error Types Used to Categorize the Events

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| PCA Error Types Modified from Doyle’s Taxonomy | |
| 1. Use of wrong drug or wrong cartridge  2. Accidental misprogramming  3. False triggering  4. False triggering by proxy  5. Drug accumulation in IV dead space  6. Runaway fluid column due to "siphoning"  7. PCA machine malfunction due to hardware failure  8. PCA machine malfunction related to software design error  9. Retrograde flow of PCA analgesic drug into a secondary IV set due to a temporarily blocked IV catheter  10. Bad medical judgment in formulating PCA prescription, or opiate orders from other physicians unaware that PCA orders have been written | 11. Medication given despite documented allergy  12. Reprogramming with criminal intent  13. Improper preparation of medication  14. Discontinuation or medication change orders not followed in a timely manner  15. Improper patient education on PCA pump use  16. Improper patient selection (patient unable to physically use or mentally understand pump correctly)  17. Improper Nurse/Health care professional education on PCA pump use  18. Inadequate/Improper Patient Monitoring (*e.g.*, vitals, level of somnolence) |

IV = Intravenous; PCA = Patient Controlled Analgesia

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