**Risk Management**

**Agnes Avedzi**

**Grand Canyon University: HLT-308**

**10/19/19**

# Risk Management Program Analysis

Risk management is defined as the procedure of identifying, evaluating and eliminating risks that create threats in a field or an organization. These risks can ascend from various sources, for instance, strategies, natural or accidental disasters, management errors, or financial uncertainty. The role of risk management in a hospital is crucial because it evaluates or assesses different hospital functions and activities to eliminate the risk factors from the hospital (A. Blake, 2019). It is considered as a continuous process that assesses the problem, identifies the risk, employs new practices to eliminate the risk, and then monitors the new practices. In the setting of a hospital, there are various factors that are prone to risks or errors. These factors include patient safety, employee’s safety, and technology use.

Thus, in a hospital, it is necessary to implement a risk management program to ensure the elimination of errors from hospital functions. This risk management program will be implemented with a well-designed system for organization functions and activities of different hospital departments to ensure maximum patient safety and proper technology use. This paper will discuss the administrative steps for this risk management plan or program and an analysis of organizations that regulates the safe health care in a hospital and their roles in the hospital.

# **Description of the Standard Administrative Steps**

In hospital settings, risk management programs can be beneficial in various contexts. For example, in the patient care or safety, finance, technology hazards, and many more. FDA, AHRQ, and CMS work as MIPPA approved accredited bodies that provide state and federal statutes to facilitate the risk management program of a hospital. The administrative steps for risk management of these accredited bodies include the establishment of context which means areas will be covered in the risk management program. To proceed the risk management program the next step is the identification of risks by evaluating the functions of the hospital (Alam, 2016). Then the risk is analyzed to assess its level of severity by using risk score, root cause analysis for the identification of the underlying causes, and existing control measures. Next administrative step of a hospital risk management program is the risk evaluation. In this step the risk is evaluated to comprehend the urgency of treatment. This step decides how the risk should be treated. Whether the risk will be accepted, or it will be eliminated or reduced. The last administrative step for a typical risk management program is risk treatment or management step. This step includes the formation of proposed actions, responsibilities of individuals who will implement the risk treatment, and time frames for the treatment.

The risk management program for a hospital will implement the regulations and policies of these federal agencies. However, it will be applied in some areas of the hospital. This proposed risk management program will be applied in several areas of the hospital. The risk management program will be implemented in ICU (intensive care unit), hospital laboratories, CCU (coronary care units), operation and emergency rooms rather than covering all departments of the hospital. Since these areas are the main sources of medical errors in patient safety and improper technology use, for instance, improper use of equipment and machines (ventilators, ECG devices, surgical items, invasive blood pressure devices or pulse dosimeters). In these areas’ risks will be identified by using some resources that will include screenings of patient records, patient infection reports, and reports of accredited bodies, patient complaints and surveys, and safety and facility management committee reports.

The analyzing risk step of this program will analyze the risks using existing control measures. In this step, the effectiveness of health activities and technology usage will be analyzed. Moreover, the adequacy of the care and treatment functions will be assessed in this step to analyze the possible or emerged risks in the selected departments. The existing control measures that will be used in this step includes protocols, procedures, engineering controls for equipment and machines, preventive controls for maintenance, and training of the departmental staff of the hospital.

In the next step, the risks will be evaluated to prioritize treatment urgency. Unlike the standard hospital risk management program, risks will only be treated rather than accepting and not treating the risk. However, if the risk does not have a high-risk score then its treatment will be postponed. The last step of this risk management program is the risk treatment step. The risk treatment or risk mitigation step will deliver proposed actions for treatment, required resources to treat the risk, time frames that when the treatment will be implemented and when the outcome will be assessed, and allocation of hospital staff that will implement the risk management plan.

# Key Agencies and Organizations

There are several organizations and agencies that regulate the administration of safe health care in the area of health and services. However, the key agencies of the US health and human services include FDA (food and Drug Administration), AHRQ (Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality Mission), and CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). Regulations of these agencies have a substantial role in risk management program of hospitals. For instance, the Food and Drug Administration Agency is mainly responsible to provide public protection in public safety, biological products, security of human drugs, and medical devices (U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 2019). Moreover, the regulation of medical devices sale and the monitoring of effective and safe medical devices and products are done under the guidance of this regulation.

Similarly, AHRQ also has a significant role in the risk management program of a hospital. Its mission is to make the healthcare services of high quality, safe, affordable, accessible, and more equitable by producing and providing evidence (Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, 2019). This agency facilitates the research organizations that work on eliminating medical errors from the hospitals, advancing patient safety and quality care. CMS facilitates the risk management program in a hospital by providing technical and operational security controls, enhanced monitoring processes, and providing information to the hospital senior management for risk assessment and management for hospital assets and organizational tasks (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2019).

# Evaluation of Compliance

The MIPPA approved accredited bodies hold high compliance in privacy, patient safety and healthcare worker safety. For example, when FDA regulations and policies are strictly followed it will deliver high compliance. Similarly, AHRQ employs several indicators to ensure the standards of patient safety and quality care are met. However, these accredited bodies provide compliance in different areas, for instance, FDA is used to administer food and drug for patient safety, AHRQ works to provide maximum pieces of evidence to ensure high-quality care and improved and safe care, and CMS provides information about operational and technical safety controls. All the discussed accredited bodies deliver high compliance. Thus, the proposed risk management program of the hospital will seek guidance from all these bodies and will deliver the integrated and increased compliance.

# **Proposed Recommendations and Implementations**

To enhance the compliance of my risk management program, I would recommend and implement the creation of a right workplace culture that encourages the hospital staff to follow the rules and regulations of the hospital for patient safety and proper use of technology to prevent any kind of loss. Another implementation would be a clear allocation of rules and responsibilities so that the risk management program will deliver maximum positive outcomes. Furthermore, I would recommend the hospital staff to strictly follow the policies and procedures of the risk management plan.

# References

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