

Medical Errors & Consequences: Zero & First Conditional

1. Grammar Review: Cause and Effect



Zero Conditional (Facts & Protocols)

Used for general truths, standard hospital procedures, and scientific facts.

Structure: If + present simple, ... present simple.

Example: If you mix these chemicals, they explode.

First Conditional (Real Possibilities)

Used for specific situations, warnings, and likely future consequences.

Structure: If + present simple, ... will + verb.

Example: If you forget to document this, the doctor will not know.

2. Standard Protocols (Zero Conditional)

Match the protocol violation with its immediate, factual consequence. These are general rules that always apply.

Action (If...)

1. If you do not wash your hands,
2. If a patient's oxygen goes below 90%,
3. If you use the wrong ID,
4. If a patient has a red wristband,

Consequence (Result)

- a) ...the alarm sounds immediately.
- b) ...the system rejects the password.
- c) ...bacteria spreads to other patients.
- d) ...it means they have an allergy.

3. Warnings (First Conditional)

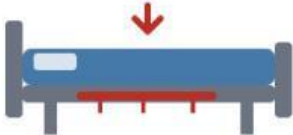
A head nurse is teaching a nurse about specific mistakes on today's shift. Complete the sentences using the **First Conditional**. Remember: use the **Present Simple** for the 'If' clause and **will** for the result.



1. If you _____ (give) the wrong medication, the patient _____ (have) a severe reaction.
2. The doctor _____ (be) angry if we _____ (not / check) the vitals every hour.
3. If you _____ (leave) a blood sample with no name, the laboratory _____ (reject) it.

4. Identifying Hazards

Look at the images of medical errors below. Write a full **First Conditional** sentence describing what **will** happen if this mistake is made.

The mistake	Write 3 Consequences (Write a full sentence)
 Error: Spilled water on the floor.	
 Error: Leaving bed rails down.	

5. Critical Thinking: Mitigation

Read the mistake. Write a sentence explaining the consequence (using 'will'), and then a solution.

Scenario: A nurse notices that a patient's chart has two different blood types listed.

If the nurse ignores this mistake...
