

# 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)

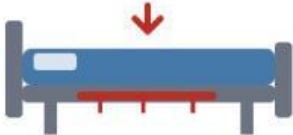
A head nurse is teaching a nurse about specific mistakes on today's shift. Complete the sentences using the **First Conditional**. Remember: use the **Present Simple** for the 'If' clause and **will** for the result.



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) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>Error:</b> Spilled water on the floor.</p> |                                              |
|  <p><b>Error:</b> Leaving bed rails down.</p>   |                                              |

## 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...**

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