What is a safety cross?

✓ A safety cross is a visual data collection tool that we can use to identify areas for improvement.

✓ A safety cross is a calendar in the shape of a cross in which we can record a metric and the number of occurrences.

Why use a safety cross?

✓ To improve patient safety and promote good practice by raising awareness within the team and others regarding the incident(s) being tracked.

✓ To provide real-time incidence data to let staff and patients/clients know on a daily basis how many days have gone by without a new incident occurring. You can do this by displaying in a public area ‘Days without Incident ____’.

✓ To link the data to an improvement goal/initiative

How to use the safety cross?

✓ Each safety cross represents one calendar month and one box should be colored daily. Only count an incident once.

✓ If more than one occurrence happened in a day, you can record the exact number in the corner of the box.

✓ Ensure that all staff is aware of the cross and know how to complete it. Assign responsibility to fill in the safety cross daily.

✓ Place it on your Quality Board so everyone will see it on a regular basis.

✓ Be honest with your data; it is for improvement not judgment.

✓ Link the data you collect to an improvement.

“Simplicity is key to the effectiveness of the safety cross”
Materials Management Example #1:

This safety cross example represents a potential area for improvement that Materials Management may want to consider using a safety cross for.

They are measuring the number of stockouts of hip replacements for the month of November.

![Safety Cross Diagram](image)

| Metric               | 1 | 2   |   |   | 3 | 4   |   |   | 5 | 6   |   |   | 7 | 9   | 11 | 13 | 15 | 17 | 19 | 21 |
|----------------------|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|---|---|
| Stockout of Hips     |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |
| Month                |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |
| November-14          |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |
| Days Without Incident|   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |
|                      | 8 | 10  | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18  | 20 | 22 |
|                      | 23 | 24  |   |   |   |     |   |   |
|                      | 25 | 26  |   |   |   |     |   |   |
|                      | 27 | 28  |   |   |   |     |   |   |
|                      | 29 | 30  |   |   |   |     |   |   |
|                      | 31 |     |   |   |   |     |   |   |
Clinical Example #2:

This safety cross is an example of something that a clinical area may use a safety cross for.

They are measuring the number of patient/client/resident falls for the month of November.
Clinical Example #3:

This safety cross is an example of something that a clinical area may use a safety cross for.

They are measuring the number of patient/client/resident medication errors for the month of December.
Administrative Example #4:

This safety cross is an example of something that an administrative area may use a safety cross for.

They are measuring the number of unsigned leave forms submitted the month of December.
Laboratory Example #5:

This safety cross is an example of something that a laboratory area may use a safety cross for.

They are measuring the missing lab samples the month of December.