

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”

Safety Cross

Metric

Stockout of Hips

Month

November-14

			1	2				
			3	4				
			5	6				
7	9	11	13	15	17	19	21	
8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	
			23	24				
			25	26				
			27	28				
			29	30				
				31				

Days Without Incident

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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

Metric

Falls

Month

November-14

			1	2				
			3	4				
			5	6				
7	9	11	13	15	17	19	21	
8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	
			23	24				
			25	26				
			27	28				
			29	30				
			31					

Days Without Incident

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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.

Safety Cross

Metric

Medication Errors

Month

December-14

			1	2											
			3	4											
			5	6											
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			23	24											
			25	26											
			27	28											
			29	30											
			31												

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.

Days Without Incident

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Safety Cross

Metric

Unsigned Leave Forms

Month

December-14

		1		2					
		3		4					
		5		6					
7	9	11	13	15	17	19			21
8	10	12	14	16	18		20		22
		23		24					
		25		26					
		27		28					
		29		30					
				31					

Days Without Incident

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.

Safety Cross

Metric

Missing Lab Samples

Month

December-14

			1	2			
			3	4			
			5	6			
7	9	11	13	15	17	19	21
8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
			23	24			
			25	26			
			27	28			
			29	30			
			31				

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.

Days Without Incident

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