Safety Cross[1] or Calendar

What is a safety cross or calendar?

- ✓ It is a visual data collection tool that you can use to identify areas for improvement.

- ✓ A **safety cross** is a calendar in the shape of a cross; whereas, a **safety calendar** looks like a traditional calendar. Both tools are used to track the number of times an incident has occurred.

Why use a safety cross or calendar?

- ✓ 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 incident data to let staff and patients/clients/residents 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 'It has been ___ days since ___ occurred in this area'.

- ✓ To link the data to an improvement goal/initiative.

How to use the safety cross or calendar?

- ✓ Each safety cross or calendar represents one calendar month and one box should be coloured daily (green=no incident, red=incident). Only count an incident once. (Note: if you are using the safety calendar, you will need to add the days of the month to the template).

- ✓ 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 are aware of the cross or calendar and know how to complete it. Assign responsibility to fill it in 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"

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[1]Healthcare Improvement Scotland. (June 2009). NHS Scotland Pressure Ulcer Safety Cross.
www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org

Safety Cross

Measure

Month

			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

Safety Calendar

Measure

Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Days Without Incident