

Survey Analysis for Evaluating Risk[®] (SAFER[™])

Joint Commission International is implementing **Survey Analysis for Evaluating Risk (SAFER) Matrix** to provide health care organizations with the information they need to prioritize resources and focus corrective action plans in areas that are most in need of compliance activities and interventions. Each finding within your final report will be plotted on the SAFER Matrix according to the likelihood the finding could cause harm to patient(s), staff, and/or visitor(s) and the scope at which the finding was observed. As the risk level of a finding increases, the placement of the standard and finding moves from the bottom left corner (lowest risk level) to the upper right (highest risk level).



SAFER MATRIX

		Immediate Threat to Life (a threat that represents immediate risk or may potentially have serious adverse effects on the health of the patient, resident, or individual served)		
Likelihood to Harm a Patient/Staff/Visitor	HIGH			
	MODERATE			
	LOW			
		LIMITED	PATTERN	WIDESPREAD
		Scope		

SAFER will help organizations:

- More easily identify findings with higher risk
- Identify potential for widespread quality initiatives
- Better organize survey findings by level of potential patient impact
- Have, one comprehensive visual representation of survey findings

Safer Analysis for Evaluating Risk[®] – (SAFER)[™]

Operational Definitions

LIKELIHOOD TO HARM		
Category	Definition	Further Guidance
LOW	Harm could happen, but would be rare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undermines safety/quality or contributes to an unsafe environment, but very unlikely to directly contribute to harm. It would be rare for any actual patient harm to occur as a result of the deficiency.
MODERATE	Harm could happen occasionally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could cause harm directly, but more likely to cause harm as a contributing factor in the presence of special circumstances or additional failures. If the deficiency continues, it would be possible that harm could occur but only in certain situations and/or patients.
HIGH	Harm could happen at any time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could directly lead to harm without the need for other significant circumstances or failures. If the deficiency continues, it would be likely that harm could happen at any time to any patient (or did happen)

SCOPE		
Category	Definition	Further Guidance
LIMITED	Unique occurrence that is not representative of routine/regular practice, and has the potential to impact only one or a very limited number of patients, visitors, staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outlier. Scope is isolated when one or a very limited number of patients are affected and/or one or a very limited number of staff are involved, and/or the deficiency occurs in a very limited number of locations.
PATTERN	Multiple occurrences of the deficiency, or a single occurrence that has the potential to impact more than a limited number of patients, visitors, staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process Variation. Scope is pattern when more than a very limited number of patients are affected, and/or more than a very limited number of staff are involved, and/or the situation has occurred in several locations, and/or the same patient(s) have been affected by repeated occurrences of the same deficient practice.
WIDESPREAD	Deficiency is pervasive in the facility, or represents systemic failure, or has the potential to impact most/all patients, visitors, staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process Failure. Scope is widespread when the deficiency affects most/all patients, is pervasive in the facility or represents systemic failure. Widespread scope refers to the entire organization, not just a subset of patients or one unit.