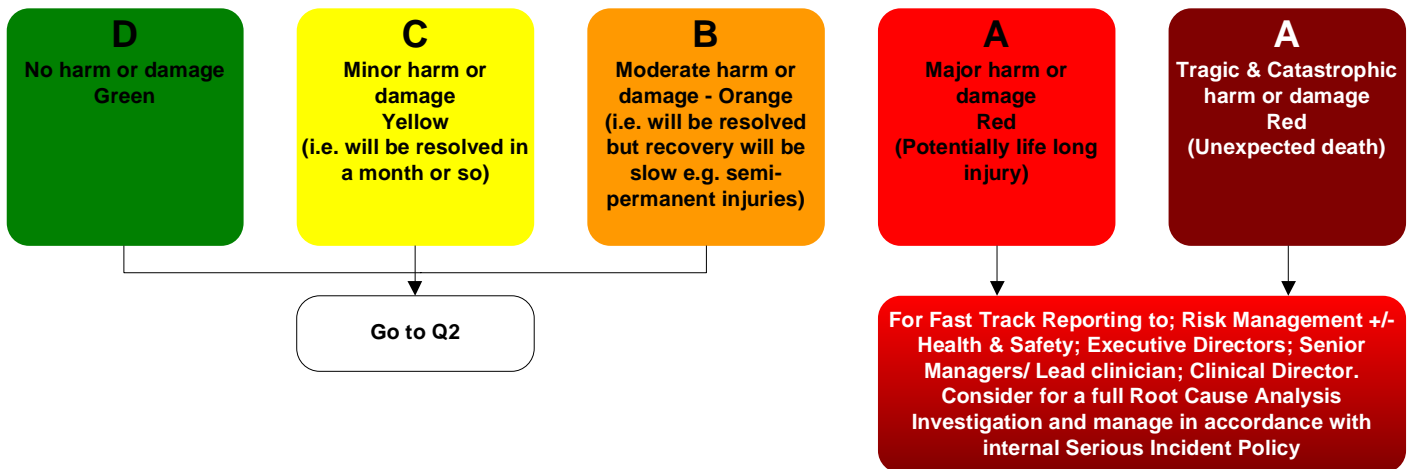


Risk Assessment Framework for Adverse Events

Q1. What happened today?



Q2. What is the likelihood for the re-occurrence of this event?
(Choose the most appropriate descriptor from the table below)

It is OK to use your professional and life experience for this, take a view from a colleague if it helps.
Don't get too hung up that your assessment is fallible; it is a risk with all qualitative assessment tools.

Level	Descriptor	Description
A	Certain	Likely to re-occur on many occasions (Each organisation must decide on frequency values e.g. daily monthly, 12 times a year etc)
B	Likely	Will probably re-occur but not everyday event (Each organisation to determine frequency values, e.g. every couple of months)
C	Possible	May re-occur occasionally event (Each organisation to determine frequency values e.g. once every couple of years)
D	Unlikely	Do not expect it to happen again but possible event (Each organisation to determine frequency values e.g. once in every 5 years, once every 10 years)
E	Rare	Can't believe that this will ever happen again event (Each organisation to determine frequency values e.g. once in 20 years)

Q3. What are the anticipated consequences of this event if it occurs again?

The table overleaf provides 3 columns A, B & C. Each represents a specific area to be considered in terms of the impact of this event should it recur. You may wish to also consider current impact of this event for columns B & C.

For each column (A, B & C) identify the impact you would expect if this event were to recur in similar circumstances. N.B. - (Be realistic not deliberately pessimistic, if a patient falls 3 times each day, and never hurts themselves, it is highly unlikely that he/she will have a fractured neck of femur tomorrow)

The most severe consequence you choose determines the overall consequence score of the event. ** There is no 'adding', 'subtracting' or 'dividing' to do with this matrix. If you rate column A as Tragic and column B as Insignificant and column C as Moderate the overall consequence score is Tragic. Easy as ABC.

*** (note) If you want to identify financial resource implications in terms of £££ - as an organisation you must decide your parameters for this. Owing to the wide variation in organisational size within Healthcare, prescribing this is not appropriate.

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Risk Assessment Framework for Adverse Events

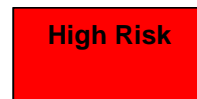
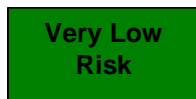
Q3. What do you think are the anticipated Consequences of this event if it occurs again?

It is OK to use your professional and life experience for this, take a view from a colleague if it helps. Don't get too hung up that your assessment is fallible; it is a risk with all qualitative assessment tools.

Descriptor	A Potential Impact on Individual(s)	B Potential impact on organisation + resource implications *** (see note overleaf)	C Number of persons affected at one time
1 Catastrophic / Tragic	Death Suicide/ Homicide	International Adverse publicity. NHS investigation Commission for Health Improvement visit Criminal prosecution Extended service closure Significant financial cost	Many >50 e.g Out break of food poisoning Vaccination error Screening errors / failure to recall
2 Major	Permanent Injury	National adverse publicity Temporary service closure Long term staff sickness > 4 wks Increased length of hospital stay > 15 days Health & safety Exec Investigation Serious complaint anticipated Significant financial cost	Moderate numbers 16 – 50** e.g. Lost endoscopy (or other tissue samples) MRSA out break Hostage situation
3 Moderate	Semi-Permanent Injury/ Damage e.g. injury that takes up to one year to resolve, or more.	Local adverse publicity MDA Reportable Mental Health Act Commission Assessment Staff sickness > 3days Complaint anticipated Increased length of hospital stay < 15 days	Small Numbers 3-15
4 Minor	Short Term Injury or Damage e.g. injury that has been resolved in one month	Minimal risk to organisation staff sickness < 3 days Low risk complaint Increased length of hospital stay < 5 days	1 – 2
5 Insignificant	No Injury or adverse outcome	No risk at all to organisation	N/A

Once decided upon map the 'likelihood descriptor' chosen and the highest 'consequence descriptor' chosen on the coloured chart below. This tells you what the combined risk category/code for the incident is.

LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE				
	5 Insignificant	4 Minor	3 Moderate	2 Major	1 Tragic
A - Almost certain					
B - Likely					
C - Possible					
D - Unlikely					
E - Rare					



Remember
 the 'colour/risk category' assigned only assists you in determining the level of investigation/review required for the incident. For all low risk incidents this does not preclude the undertaking of a systems based review if this is considered appropriate. However a decision not to undertake a system based review on a High or Very High Risk event should be given careful consideration by relevant management and clinical teams, and risk management/governance committees. The reasons for not reviewing such an event should be clearly documented in the minutes of the meeting and a copy of this attached to the incident form, or electronic incident file for future reference.

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