

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

The Joint Commission has developed the **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 Requirement for Improvement (RFI) noted within your final report will be plotted on the SAFER Matrix according to the likelihood the RFI could cause harm to patient(s), staff, and/or visitor(s) and the scope at which the RFI was observed. As the risk level of a RFI increases, the placement of the standard and EP moves from the bottom left corner (lowest risk level) to the upper right (highest risk level).



SAFER will help your organization to:

- More easily identify RFIs 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 Impacts

- SAFER Matrix will be included in all survey reports and will drive the level of post survey follow up required.
- All RFIs will be addressed in a 60 day Evidence of Standards Compliance Report.
- For higher risk level RFIs, additional detail is required regarding corrective action sustainment.
- RFIs of a higher risk level will be highlighted for surveyors, for potential review on subsequent surveys.

SAFER Matrix

		Immediate Threat to Health or Safety		
Likelihood to Harm a Patient/Staff/Visitor	HIGH			
	MODERATE			
	LOW			
		LIMITED	PATTERN	WIDESPREAD
		Scope		

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Placement of RFI on SAFER Matrix and Follow-Up Activity

SAFER Matrix Placement	Required Follow-Up Activity
HIGH/LIMITED, HIGH/PATTERN, HIGH/WIDESPREAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 day Evidence of Standards Compliance (ESC) • ESC will also include two additional areas surrounding Leadership Involvement and Preventive Analysis • Finding will be highlighted for potential review by surveyors on subsequent onsite surveys up to and including the next full survey or review
MODERATE / PATTERN, MODERATE/ WIDESPREAD	
MODERATE / LIMITED, LOW / PATTERN, LOW / WIDESPREAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 day Evidence of Standards Compliance (ESC)
LOW/LIMITED	