



MEASUREMENT: Serious Safety Events per 10,000 Adjusted Patient Days

I. Description and Rationale

This measure answers the question: How often do Serious Safety Events Occur?

A *Serious Safety Event (SSE)* is: Any unanticipated event involving death, life-threatening consequences, or serious physical or psychological injury. Serious Safety Events are part of a new taxonomy that encompasses what used to be called Sentinel Events. Thus, Serious Safety Events may be said to “replace” Sentinel Events as a measure, although the two classifications, while very similar, are not precisely equivalent.

II. Population Definition (Inclusion/Exclusions)

All patients (both inpatients and outpatients) and all CCHMC visitors.

III. Data Source(s)

Legal Department.

IV. Sampling and Data Collection Plan

Serious Safety Events (prior to actual classification as such) are primarily reported as incidents, through CCHMC’s voluntary online incident reporting system. Phone calls or emails are sometimes used as well, either in addition to, or in lieu of, the online incident reporting.

V. Calculation

Numerator: For a given period, the number of SSEs identified as having occurred in that period. Whether an event is classified as a Serious Safety Event (SSE) is a decision generally based upon an investigation of the event and a consensus among selected members of the legal and medical staff – most typically, the senior counsel overseeing risk management, the risk management coordinator, and the chief of staff.

Denominator: Adjusted Patient Days is a quantity calculated by the Financial Department, based on the sum of inpatient days and financial “equivalent” patient days determined by applying a formula to outpatient treatments. Thus both inpatients and outpatients are accommodated in this quantity.

$$\text{SSEs per 10,000 Adj. Pt. Days} = (\text{Numerator} / \text{Denominator}) * 10,000$$

VI. Analysis Plan and Frequency of Reporting

Data on incidents is collected continuously, through online voluntary incident reporting. These incidents are reviewed daily by Risk Management. Those incidents representing potential Serious Safety Events are subsequently discussed, investigated, and classified, as determined by those responsible (see Calculation above).

VII. Reporting Venues

A chart showing a rolling 12-month average of SSEs per 10,000 adjusted patient days is updated monthly and posted on Centerlink under Patient Safety. The corresponding link is titled, [SSEs per 10,000 Adjusted Patient Days](#). A quarterly rate is also reported on the Inpatient CSI Dashboard.

VIII. Limitations

Classification of an SSE may lag the actual occurrence of the event, such that the more recent monthly counts, for example, may be revised later on, as classification “catches up” with the actual occurrences.

SSEs could, potentially, fail to be identified if the associated incident is not voluntarily reported. However, in cases where incident reports are not initiated, the typical severity of these events tends to make them known, independent of voluntary reporting. That is, the nature of SSEs renders them difficult to overlook. The more serious an incident, the less likely that it will escape notice.

X. Experts/Resources

XI. Revision History

Version	Primary Author(s)	Description of Version	Date Completed
Initial Doc	Art Wheeler	Initial Document	11/13/2006