

Risk Scoring Guide

To be used when assessing risks that are recorded on the Trust risk register (Datix).

Severity score & descriptor (with examples)					
Risk type	1 Very low	2 Low	3 Moderate	4 High	5 Very high
Harm (physical or psychological)	Low level of harm affecting a small number of patients, staff or visitors within a single location.	Low level of harm affecting a large number of patients, staff or visitors within a single location.	Significant but not permanent harm affecting multiple patients, staff or visitors within a single directorate.	Significant long-term or permanent harm affecting multiple patients, staff or visitors within one or more directorates.	Significant long-term or permanent harm affecting a large number of patients, staff or visitors throughout the Trust.
Service disruption	Manageable, temporary disruption to peripheral aspects of service provision affecting one or more services.	Noticeable, temporary disruption to essential aspects of service provision reducing the efficiency & effectiveness of one or more services.	Temporary, unplanned service closure affecting one or more services or significant disruption to efficiency & effectiveness across multiple services.	Extended, unplanned service closure affecting one or more services; prolonged disruption to services across multiple directorates / sites.	Indefinite, unplanned general hospital or site closure.
Compliance & reputation	Limited impact on public, commissioner or regulator confidence. e.g.: Small number of individual complaints / concerns received.	Noticeable, short term reduction in public, commissioner and / or regulator confidence. e.g.: Recommendations for improvement for one or more services; concerns expressed in local / social media; multiple complaints received.	Significant, short term reduction in public, commissioner and / or regulator confidence. e.g.: Improvement / warning notice for one or more services; independent review; adverse local / social media coverage; multiple serious complaints received.	Significant, long-term reduction in public, commissioner and / or regulator confidence. e.g.: Special Measures; prohibition notice for one or more services; prosecution; sustained adverse national / social media coverage.	Fundamental loss of public, commissioner and / or regulator confidence. e.g.: Suspension of CQC Registration; Parliamentary intervention; vitriolic national / social media coverage.
Finances	Some adverse financial impact (unplanned cost / reduced income / loss) but not sufficient to affect the ability of the service / department to operate within its annual budget.	Noticeable adverse financial impact (unplanned cost / reduced income / loss) affecting the ability of one or more services / departments to operate within their annual budget.	Significant adverse financial impact (unplanned cost / reduced income / loss) affecting the ability of one or more directorates to operate within their annual budget.	Significant adverse financial impact (unplanned cost / reduced income / loss) affecting the ability of the organisation to achieve its annual financial control total.	Significant aggregated financial impact (unplanned cost / reduced income / loss) affecting the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation.

Likelihood score & descriptor (with examples)				
1 Extremely unlikely	2 Quite unlikely	3 Reasonably likely	4 Quite likely	5 Extremely likely
Unlikely to happen except in very rare circumstances. Less than 1 chance in 1,000 (< 0.1% probability). No gaps in control. Well managed.	Unlikely to happen except in specific circumstances. Between 1 chance in 1,000 & 1 in 100 (0.1 - 1% probability). Some gaps in control; no substantial threats identified.	Likely to happen in a relatively small number of circumstances. Between 1 chance in 100 & 1 in 10 (1- 10% probability). Evidence of potential threats with some gaps in control.	Likely to happen in many but not the majority of circumstances. Between 1 chance in 10 & 1 in 2 (10 - 50% probability). Evidence of substantial threats with some gaps in control.	More likely to happen than not. Greater than 1 chance in 2 (>50% probability). Evidence of substantial threats with significant gaps in control.

Risk scoring matrix						
Severity	5	5	10	15	20	25
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	1	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5	
	Likelihood					
Risk rating	Very low (1-3)	Low (4-6)	Medium (8-10)	High (12-16)	Very high (20-25)	