

ESSEX PARTNERSHIP UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
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Patient Safety Incidents (PSI) Identification, definition and grading

The National Reporting and Learning Service (NRLS) require all NHS Trusts to identify and report all Patient Safety Incidents (PSIs). The NRLS defines a patient safety incident as:

“Any unintended or unexpected incident that could have or did lead to harm for one or more patients/resident receiving healthcare”

This means that any example listing will not be exhaustive because of its sheer volume, however, detailed below are a few examples of PSI's:

- Slip, trip and falls of all categories
- Needle stick injuries other than those intended as the administration of a drug
- Assaults on patient /resident
- Outbreaks of infections/diseases
- Death including unexpected deaths
- Suicides – attempted or actual
- Patient/ resident self harming
- Burns and scalds
- All serious client incidents as identified in the Serious Incident Policy
- Pressure ulcers
- Medication errors
- Incidents involving the safeguarding of vulnerable people

If the incident may have or has caused harm in any way to the patient/ resident it is defined as a PSI and must be graded according to the NRLS matrix. Consideration should be given to whether a serious incident has occurred.

NRLS GRADE of HARM	NRLS DESCRIPTION (this list is not exhaustive)
No Harm	Impact prevented – Any patient safety incident that had the potential to cause harm but was prevented, resulting in no harm to people receiving NHS funded care. Impact not prevented – Any patient safety incident that ran to completion but no harm occurred to people receiving NHS-funded care.
Low	Any patient safety incident that required extra observation or minor treatment and caused minimal harm, to one or more persons receiving NHS funded care. Minor treatment is defined as a first aid, additional therapy or additional medication.
Moderate	Any patient safety incident that resulted in a moderate increase in treatment i.e. Transfer to Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit, and which caused significant but not permanent harm, to one or more persons receiving NHS funded care. Fractures.
Severe	Any patient safety incident that appears to have resulted in permanent harm to one or more persons receiving NHS funded care, i.e. permanent harm directly related to the incident and not related to the natural course of the patients illness or underlying condition. Fractures requiring surgical intervention.
Death	Any patient safety incident that directly resulted in the death of one or more persons receiving NHS funded care, i.e. the death must be related to the incident rather than to the natural course of the patient's illness or underlying condition.