**RISK SCORE MATRIX DEFINITIONS**

**Table 1: Severity/Consequence scores**

Choose the most appropriate domain for the identified risk from the left hand side of the table Then work along the columns in same row to assess the severity of the risk on the scale of 1 to 5 to determine the consequence score, which is the number given at the top of the column.

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|  | **Severity/Consequence score (severity levels) and examples of descriptors** | | | | |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **Domains** | **Negligible** | **Minor** | **Moderate** | **Major** | **Catastrophic** |
| **Impact on the safety of patients, staff or public (physical/psychological harm)** | Minimal injury requiring no/minimal intervention or treatment.  No time off work | Minor injury or illness, requiring minor intervention  Requiring time off work for >3 days  Increase in length of hospital stay by 1-3 days | Moderate injury requiring professional intervention  Requiring time off work for 4-14 days  Increase in length of hospital stay by 4-15 days  RIDDOR/agency reportable incident  An event which impacts on a small number of patients | Major injury leading to long-term incapacity/disability  Requiring time off work for >14 days  Increase in length of hospital stay by >15 days  Mismanagement of patient care with long-term effects | Incident leading to death  Multiple permanent injuries or irreversible health effects    An event which impacts on a large number of patients |
| **Quality/complaints/audit** | Peripheral element of treatment or service suboptimal  Informal complaint/inquiry | Overall treatment or service suboptimal  Formal complaint (stage 1)  Local resolution  Single failure to meet internal standards  Minor implications for patient safety if unresolved  Reduced performance rating if unresolved | Treatment or service has significantly reduced effectiveness  Formal complaint (stage 2) complaint  Local resolution (with potential to go to independent review)  Repeated failure to meet internal standards  Major patient safety implications if findings are not acted on | Non-compliance with national standards with significant risk to patients if unresolved  Multiple complaints/ independent review  Low performance rating  Critical report | Totally unacceptable level or quality of treatment/service  Gross failure of patient safety if findings not acted on  Inquest/ombudsman inquiry  Gross failure to meet national standards |
| **Human resources/ organisational development/staffing/ competence** | Short-term low staffing level that temporarily reduces service quality (< 1 day) | Low staffing level that reduces the service quality | Late delivery of key objective/ service due to lack of staff  Unsafe staffing level or competence (>1 day)  Low staff morale  Poor staff attendance for mandatory/key training | Uncertain delivery of key objective/service due to lack of staff  Unsafe staffing level or competence (>5 days)  Loss of key staff  Very low staff morale  No staff attending mandatory/ key training | Non-delivery of key objective/service due to lack of staff  Ongoing unsafe staffing levels or competence  Loss of several key staff  No staff attending mandatory training /key training on an ongoing basis |
| **Statutory duty/ inspections** | No or minimal impact or breech of guidance/ statutory duty | Breech of statutory legislation  Reduced performance rating if unresolved | Single breech in statutory duty  Challenging external recommendations/ improvement notice | Enforcement action  Multiple breeches in statutory duty  Improvement notices  Low performance rating  Critical report | Multiple breeches in statutory duty  Prosecution  Complete systems change required  Zero performance rating  Severely critical report |
| **Adverse publicity/ reputation** | Rumours  Potential for public concern | Local media coverage –  short-term reduction in public confidence  Elements of public expectation not being met | Local media coverage –  long-term reduction in public confidence | National media coverage with <3 days service well below reasonable public expectation | National media coverage with >3 days service well below reasonable public expectation. MP concerned (questions in the House)  Total loss of public confidence |
| **Business objectives/ projects** | Insignificant cost increase/ schedule slippage | <5 per cent over project budget  Schedule slippage | 5–10 per cent over project budget  Schedule slippage | Non-compliance with national 10–25 per cent over project budget  Schedule slippage  Key objectives not met | Incident leading >25 per cent over project budget  Schedule slippage  Key objectives not met |
| **Finance including claims** | Small loss Risk of claim remote | Loss of 0.1–0.25 per cent of budget  Claim less than £10,000 | Loss of 0.25–0.5 per cent of budget  Claim(s) between £10,000 and £100,000 | Uncertain delivery of key objective/Loss of 0.5–1.0 per cent of budget  Claim(s) between £100,000 and £1 million  Purchasers failing to pay on time | Non-delivery of key objective/ Loss of >1 per cent of budget  Failure to meet specification/ slippage  Loss of contract / payment by results  Claim(s) >£1 million |
| **Service/business interruption Environmental impact** | Loss/interruption of >1 hour  Minimal or no impact on the environment | Loss/interruption of >8 hours    Minor impact on environment | Loss/interruption of >1 day  Moderate impact on environment | Loss/interruption of >1 week  Major impact on environment | Permanent loss of service or facility  Catastrophic impact on environment |

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| **Likelihood score** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **Descriptor** | **Rare** | **Unlikely** | **Possible** | **Likely** | **Almost certain** |
| **Frequency**  How often might it/does it happen | This will probably never happen/recur **(i.e. 1 in 100 years) <1%** | Do not expect it to happen/recur but it is possible it may do so (i.e. 1 in 10 years) <10% | Might happen or recur occasionally (i.e. 1 in 1 year)  < 20% | Will probably happen/recur but it is not a persisting issue (i.e. 1 in 1 month) <40% | Will undoubtedly happen/recur, possibly frequently (i.e. 1 in 4 days)  <75% |

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| **Risk Grading Matrix** | | | | | |
| **Likelihood/**  **Frequency ↓** | **Consequence/Impact →** | | | | |
| Insignificant 1 | Minor 2 | Moderate 3 | Major 4 | Catastrophic 5 |
| Almost Certain 5 | Moderate 5 | High 10 | Extreme  15 | Extreme 20 | Extreme  25 |
| Likely 4 | Moderate 4 | Moderate 8 | High 12 | Extreme 16 | Extreme  20 |
| Possible 3 | Low 3 | Moderate 6 | High 9 | High 12 | Extreme  15 |
| Unlikely 2 | Low 2 | Moderate 4 | Moderate 6 | Moderate 8 | High 10 |
| Rare 1 | Low 1 | Low 2 | Low 3 | Moderate 4 | Moderate 5 |