

**State of New Hampshire  
ADVERSE EVENT REPORTING  
2021 REPORT**

**Prepared by**  
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Operations Support  
Bureau of Licensing & Certification

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Since January 2010, all New Hampshire Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs), except for New Hampshire Hospital, have been required to report all Serious Reportable Events (SREs), as defined by the National Quality Forum's (NQF) Serious Reportable Events in Health-2011 Update: A Consensus Report. In 2011, the NQF broadened their definition of SREs and added additional event types to the list of SREs. This list serves as the standard for identifying patient safety events. Refer to the link below for a list of SREs:

[http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2011/12/Serious\\_Reportable\\_Events\\_in\\_Healthcare\\_2011.a\\_spx](http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2011/12/Serious_Reportable_Events_in_Healthcare_2011.a_spx)

The National Quality Forum (NQF) is a national, consensus-driven, private-public partnership aimed at developing common approaches to the identification of events that are serious in nature and have been determined to be largely preventable, which is sometimes referred as "Never Events" (NQF 2002). The NQF list of serious reportable events has become the basis for state mandatory reporting systems. The intent of the NQF list is to capture clearly identifiable and measurable events that are considered preventable and of interest to the public and other stakeholders.

In New Hampshire, the law (RSA 151:38) was revised to include an additional event in 2013, related to the exposure of a patient to a non-aerosolized blood borne pathogen by a healthcare worker's intentional, unsafe act. In accordance with the New Hampshire law (NH RSA 151:39), the annual report is being submitted which requires the Bureau of Licensing and Certification, Health Facilities Certification (BLC-HFC) to report to the Legislature. This report includes healthcare facilities aggregate number and type of adverse events in the prior calendar year including rates of change, causative factors, and activities to strengthen patient safety in New Hampshire.

Adverse events, also referred to as Serious Reportable Events (SREs), are outcomes determined to be unrelated to the natural course and/or proper treatment of the patient's illness or underlying conditions. The purpose of reporting these events is to balance quality improvement accountability, not to punish hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers or the dedicated practitioners that provide the care.

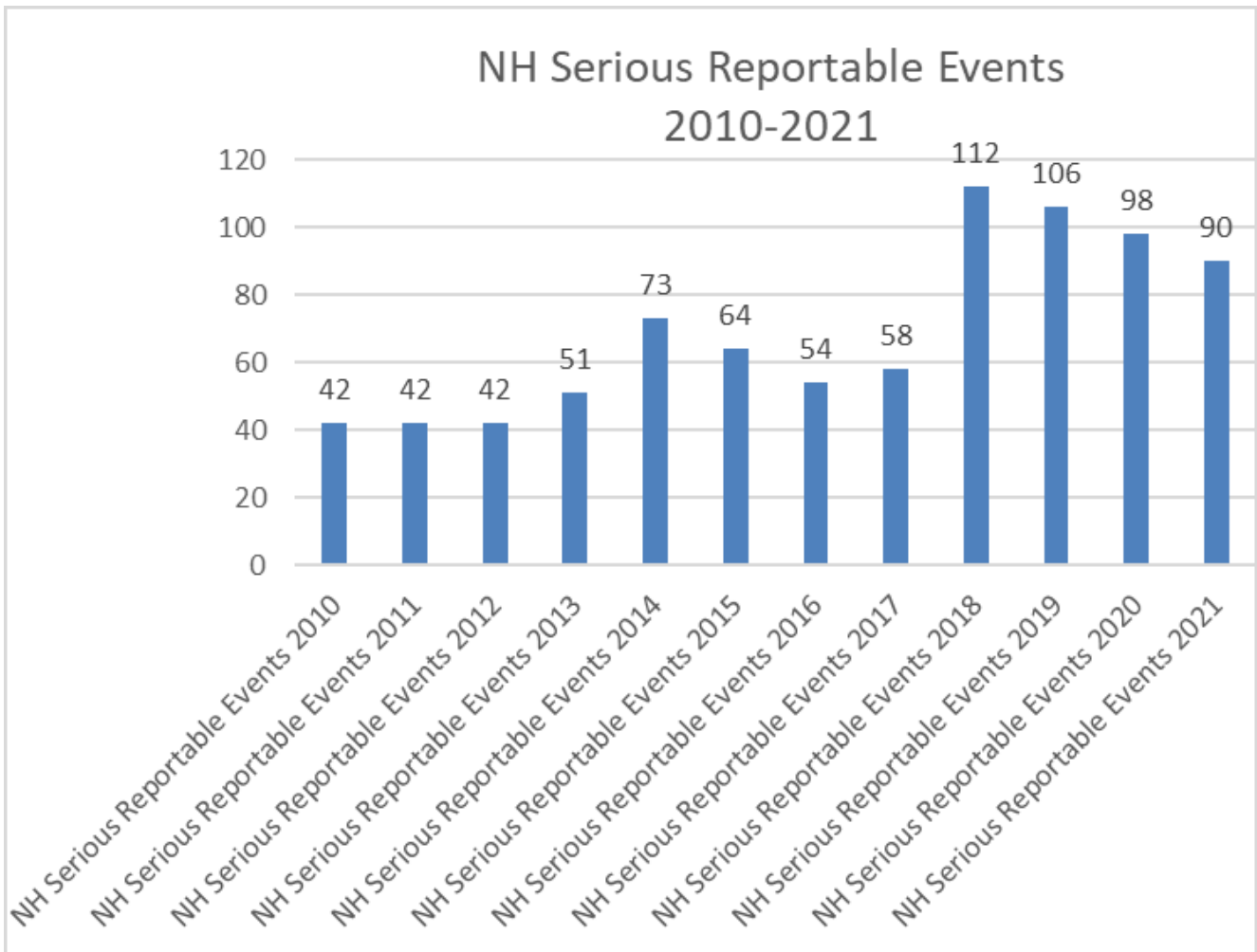
All Hospitals and ASCs must submit an initial report to the BLC-HFC within 15 days of becoming aware of the event. Once the BLC-HFC receives the initial report, the BLC-HFC checks for completeness and acknowledges receipt of the initial report. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has a specified format for the initial report and does not include any identifying information of the healthcare professionals, facility employees and patients involved. Within 60 days of the identification of the event, the facility must submit to the Bureau of Licensing and Certification, Health Facilities Certification the Root Cause Analysis (RCA) and a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). BLC-HFC determines if all submitted documents are complete and accurate, and if plans are in accordance to current professional standards. BLC-HFC acknowledges receipt of the RCA and CAP. Submission of SRE's can be via E-mail, US Mail or other methods.

New Hampshire law (RSA 151:40) states that any facility which violates this subdivision for failure to file a timely adverse event report or failure to conduct a Root Cause Analysis (RCA), to implement a Corrective Action Plan (CAP), or to provide findings of a RCA or CAP shall be subject to disciplinary actions and any other appropriate sanctions.

The facility must conduct a RCA, which is a structured method to identify and analyze systematic issues, or processes that may have contributed to the event or could create risk of a future event if not addressed and/or corrected.

The facility CAP must outline steps to address RCA findings, assign responsible persons to ensure actions are completed, delineate timeframes for completion, and describe measurable outcomes to demonstrate completion of the CAP.

The bar graph below shows the total number of events reported in NH since the statute was effective in 2010.

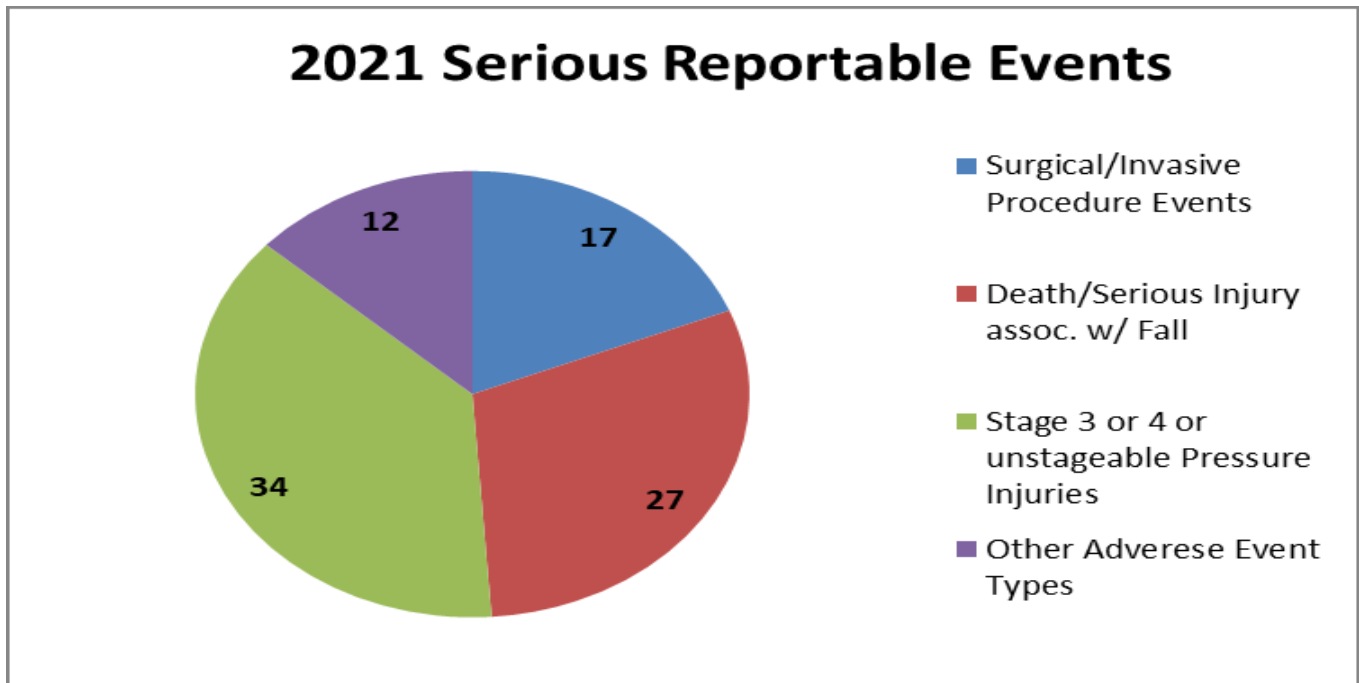


It is important to remember that consumers should not compare the quality of care and safety of the facilities by the number or types of SRE reported. Consumers need to look at all factors such as size of the facility, scope, and complexities of the procedures as well as the number of procedures performed at the facility. The following table lists the 2021 Serious Reportable Events:

## New Hampshire Reportable Events/Adverse Events 2021

CY 2021		Surgical Event	Surgical Event	Surgical Event	Product & Device Event	Product & Device Event	Protection Event	Care event	Care event	Care event	Care Event	Care Event	Care Event	Pot. Criminal Event	
Provider Name	# of staff Beds	Wrong Body Part	Wrong Patient	Foreign Object	Function of device other than as intended	Intravascular air embolism	Suicide/Self-Harm	Medication Error	Labor & Delivery	Stage 3 & 4& unstageable	Fall	Irreplacable Biological Specimen	Lab	Physical Assault	Total reported
Alice Peck Day	25			1				1							2
Catholic Medical Center	330			1						2					3
Cheshire Medical Center	169									3	1				4
Concord Hospital	295	2								1	2				5
Cottage Hospital	25									2					2
Elliot Hospital	296									9	3	1			13
Encompass	50									1	1				2
Exeter Hospital	100			1						3					4
Concord Hospital-Franklin	25											2			2
Frisbie Hospital	112								1	2	1				4
Hampstead Hospital	111						1								1
Concord Hospital-Laconia (LRGH)	137									2	1				3
Littleton Regional Healthcare	25							1	1						2
Mary Hitchcock Mem Hospital	396			2				1		2	3				8
Memorial Hospital	25	1									1				2
Monadnock Gen Hospital	25			1	1										2
Northeast Rehabilitation Hospital Network	135									3	1				4
Portsmouth Reg Hospital	209									1	2				3
Southern NH Med Center	188	2	1	1					1	2				1	8
St. Joseph Hospital	208			1							4				5
The New London Hospital	25			1						1	2				4
Valley Reg Hospital	25										1				1
Wentworth Douglass Hospital	178						1				2		1		4
Orthopedic Surgery Center-Concord		1		1											2
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>90</b>

The pie graph below shows the total number by event type reported in CY 2021.



In analyzing the events reported in CY 2021, there continues to be three major areas responsible for 87% of the events reported. These areas were as follows:

<b>Falls</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Pressure Injuries</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Surgical Events</b>	<b>19%</b>

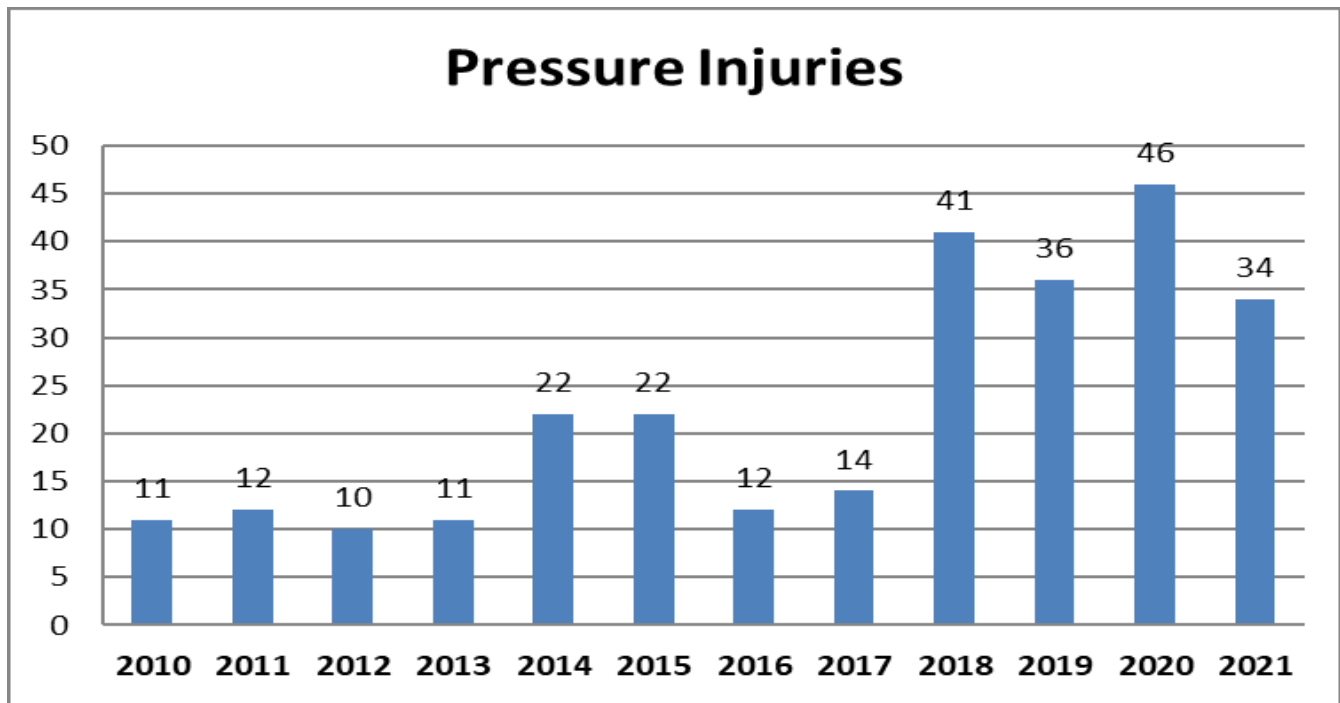
Considering that these event types represent 87% of the total events, it is important that we continue to focus our efforts on these and address what NH Hospitals and ASC's are doing in these areas to improve outcomes.

Organizations have used their root cause analysis process to learn the weaknesses in their systems, identify opportunities in systems and processes, and implement approaches to improve the quality of care the patients receive within their Hospitals and ASCs.

The 2021 Adverse Event Report (aka Serious Reportable Events) reflects a decrease in the total events compared to CY 2020 and 2019. There were increased numbers of surgical events in CY 2021 compared to events reported in CY 2020. There were decreased numbers of fall events and pressure injury events reported in CY 2021 compared to events reported in CY 2020.

## PRESSURE INJURIES

The bar graph below shows the total number of SRE that fall into the event type of pressure injuries (Stage 3, Stage 4, unstageable) acquired after admission in CY 2021.



### Strategies utilized by the NH Hospitals and ASCs include:

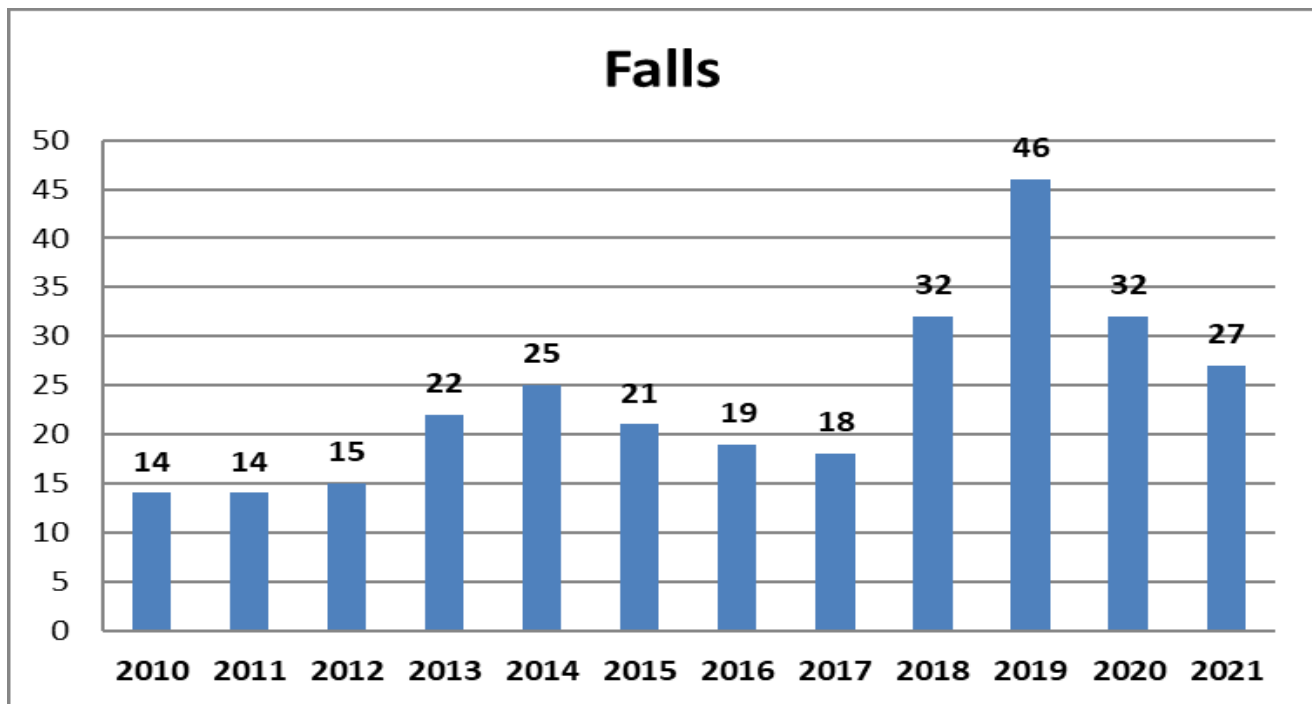
- The focus is on early identification of patients with high risk of skin breakdown to ensure prompt and appropriate interventions are in place to prevent pressure injuries and/or progression of pressure injuries.
- Completion of a Head-to-Toe Skin Assessment upon admission by two licensed staff to identify pressure injuries to enhance prompt evidence-based care implementation followed by re-assessments every 8 hours to detect early development of pressure injuries to prevent progression, including a review of skin condition and risk in daily multidisciplinary rounds with the care team.
- Inspection of equipment and skin surrounding the equipment such as nasal oxygen prongs. Use of preventative padding of skin area at risk for skin breakdown from medical equipment. Communicate with staff the need to remove medical equipment/devices for skin inspection.
- Utilization of smooth soft surfaces and special pads for patients with high-risk for skin breakdown such as surgical patients and critically ill patients.
- Standardize communication of pressure injury risk or presence between the nursing staff and multidisciplinary team.
- Inform patient/family refusal of care interventions and the potential risks when interventions are not implemented.
- Addition of Certified Wound Care Nurse to round and assess patients at risk for skin

breakdown and patients with pressure injury as early as on admission, if indicated.

- Clinical staff education/training on wound at orientation and as needed about pressure injury staging, skin inspection, assessment, evidence-based pressure injury prevention/management interventions, wound consults, and documentation of any signs of pressure injury development and interventions placed.
- Developing a proactive approach to skin management such as the “COVID-19 Med Skin Protection Bundle”, which includes the following: wound consult for management throughout admission, utilization of specialty bed, nutrition consult, and use of air turn and a utilization of a patient repositioning system.

## FALLS

The bar graph below shows the total number of SRE that fall into the event type of Death/Serious injury associated with a fall in CY 2021.



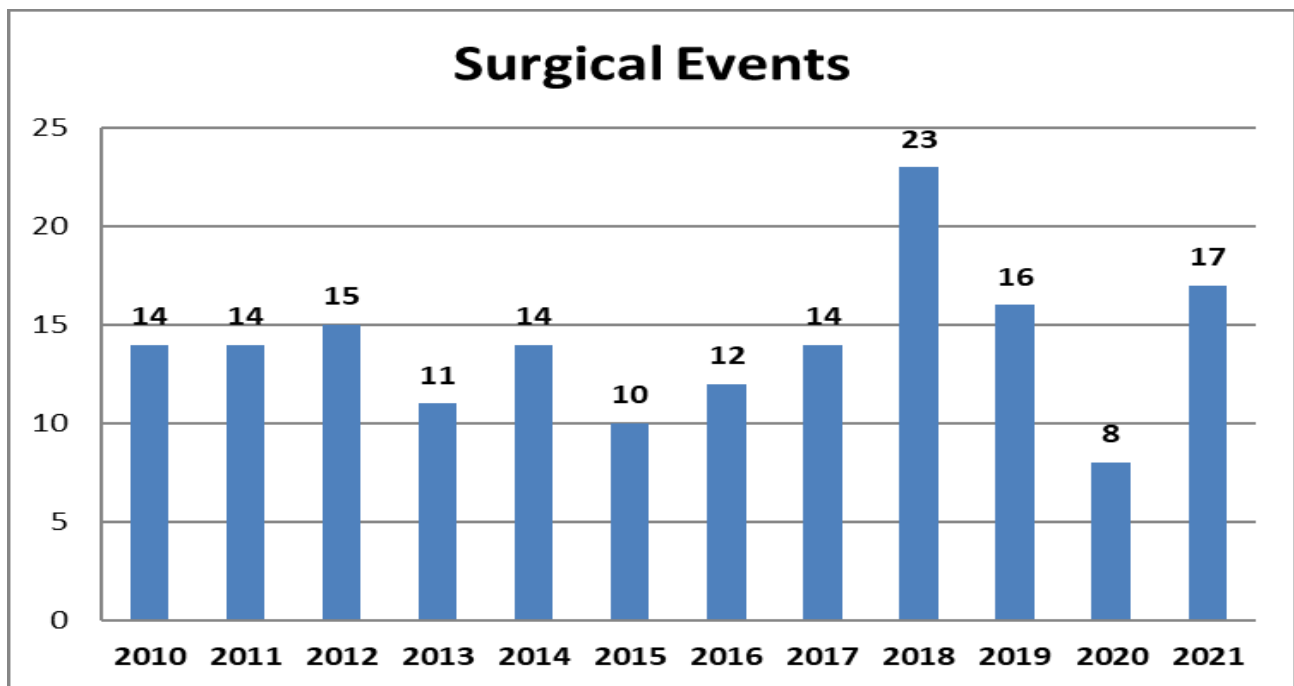
### Strategies utilized by NH Hospitals and ASCs include:

- Develop and implement a standardized approach in noting patient’s fall risk status, recent falls, ambulatory status, patient care needs, fall prevention devices (e.g. sensor alarms) utilized, and assistive device used on admission and during hospital stay.
- Frequent re-assessment of patient’s conditions and needs to determine appropriate fall prevention interventions.
- Delineate the multidisciplinary team’s role on developing, implementing, monitoring, and reporting actual/potential falls.
- Communication of patient condition and care needs through shift-to-shift huddles, nurse-to-nurse reports, and within different departments if or when moved.

- Engage and educate patient/families on patient-specific fall prevention strategies and expectations on admissions and during hospital stay.
- Standardized documentation of fall-risk assessment; fall prevention interventions and patient refusal of fall prevention interventions in the EMR (Electronic Medical Record).
- Monitor safety monitoring devices regularly for functionality and replace as needed.
- Provide staff with a regular or as needed training on technology to improve use of sensor alarms, documentation of patient risk assessment and fall interventions, evidence-based practices to prevent falls, and policy review and changes regarding fall prevention strategies.
- Staff debriefing (huddles) immediately after every fall to determine contributing factors to learn how to prevent falls.
- Fall Prevention Committee will be reviewing resources and materials for communicating and educating patient/families on safe mobility/fall prevention.
- Share feedback with staff on falls, noting event and opportunities, as well as kudos for all interventions in place and teaching patient engagement.

## **SURGICAL EVENTS**

The bar graph below shows the total number of SRE that fall into the event type of surgical events in CY 2021.



### **Strategies utilized by NH Hospitals and ASCs include:**

- Improve consistency in hand-offs of information during the continuum of care from the time of original diagnoses of the issue requiring surgery to the actual team performing the procedure to ensure that vital information is accurate and appropriately communicated.
- Reinforce implementation of no-interruption zone for critical phases such as time-out, critical



dissections, surgical counts, confirming/opening implants, induction/emergence, and care/handling of specimens.

- Team building strategies to promote just culture and expectation of speaking up and problem identification by all surgical team members.

## Summary

Ongoing discussions with the BLC-HFC staff in clarifying criteria for reporting as well as regular distribution of reported events to all New Hampshire Healthcare Quality and Safety Commission members continues to change the threshold of reporting. These discussions highlight and reinforce the importance of reporting which indirectly has increased the reporting by hospitals and ASCs.

Facilities are increasing their ability to identify events through collaborative efforts to develop a safe reporting culture. Safety event reporting is an indicator of a strong culture, which is foundational that promotes learning and high reliability by all staff has been noted.

The BLC-HFC and the New Hampshire Healthcare Quality and Safety Commission continue to monitor the number of Adverse Events to determine the cause of the total reportable events. Open communication is maintained throughout the year between the BLC-HFC and the facilities to encourage open discussion of events to ensure accuracy from initial report to the RCA and CAP.

NH Hospitals and ASCs continue to share their experiences via story telling at commission meetings, thereby ensuring they all learn from their identified RCA and CAPs that can enhance safety. The Hospitals and ASCs remain committed to educate their personnel and professional staff about patient safety to promote the best outcomes for their patients.

Bureau of Licensing and Certification, Health Facilities Certification annually sample at least 10% of the adverse events received each calendar year (CY) to ensure that the submitted Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) have been implemented by the hospital and ASCs. The samples were selected in random taking into consideration that the sample would include: at least one sample in each adverse event category that were reported in the calendar year, hospital/ASCs with an increased number of SREs in one adverse event category, and sample requested from different hospitals/ASCs compared to previous year. In 2021, 10% of the adverse events reported by hospitals and ASCs were selected, it was concluded that the hospitals/ASCs followed through with actions to correct the problems.

## Acknowledgements:

The Department's Adverse Event Reporting Staff would also like to thank the many staff at New Hampshire's hospitals for their prompt reporting of events and reporting of root cause analysis and corrective action plans. Of note was the fast response by facilities for additional data concerning quality progress metrics. Questions concerning this report may be directed to:

[Kristie.Holtz@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:Kristie.Holtz@dhhs.nh.gov).