



Institute *for*  
Healthcare  
Improvement

# From 'Failure to Rescue' to '5Rs to Rescue': Tracking Surgical deaths using an adapted 5Rs Safety Calendar and Run Charts

International Forum, Utrecht  
23 May 2025

# Facilitators



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# Disclosure Statement

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We make the following declaration in relation to this presentation:

- There is no conflict of interest
- There is no bias, either commercial or non-commercial
- There is no plagiarism or copyright infringement



# Learning Objectives

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- Have a good understanding of the 5Rs Model, which is Risk Assessment, Recognize, Respond, Reassess, and Reflect.
- Gain insights into the significance of each 'R' in preventing post-operative complications and promoting patient safety.
- Feel competent to use specific visual management tools (adapted Safety Calendar and Run Charts) to track outcomes for reflection and to inform improvement.

Workshop

Recommended for those new to quality improvement

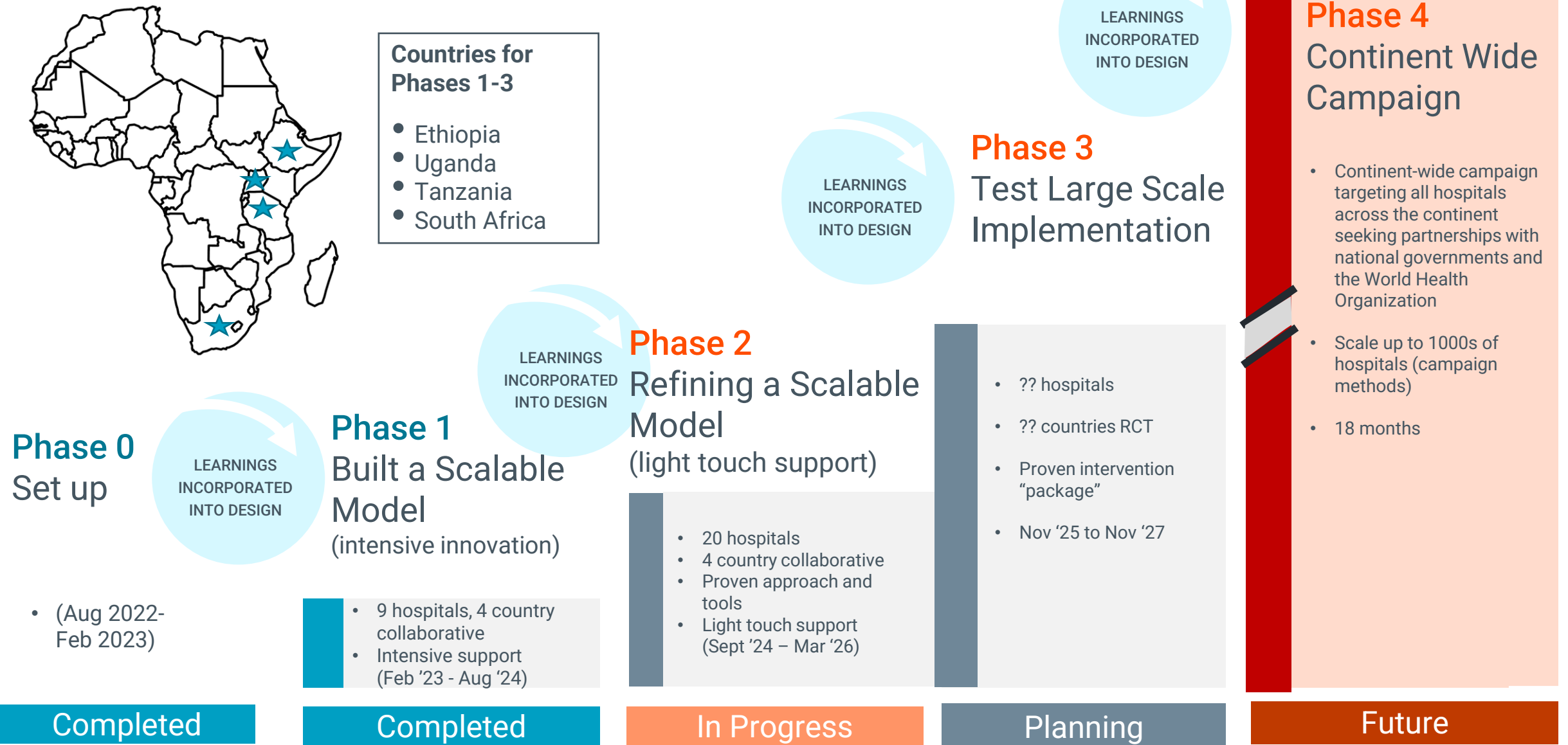


# African Surgical Outcomes



- 1 in 5 surgical patients develop a perioperative complication, following which 1 in 10 die
- Patients in Africa are 2 X more likely to die from these complications compared with global outcomes
- 95% of deaths occur in the postoperative period
- Many lives can be saved by effective surveillance and response to physiological deterioration

# Phased Scale-up Design for 5Rs to Rescue

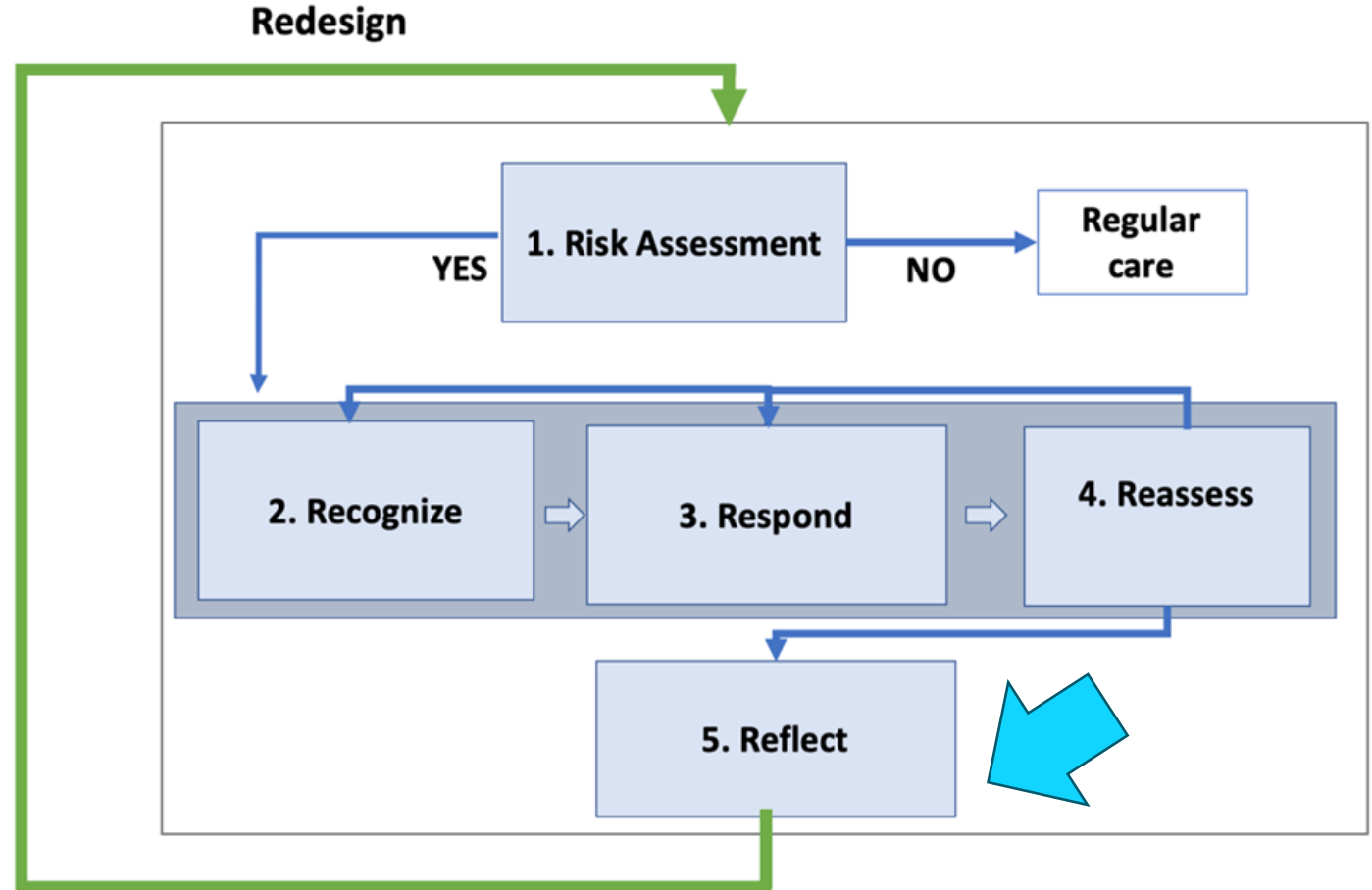


# The Change: From 'Failure to Rescue' to '5Rs to Rescue'

## '5Rs to Rescue'

A model of care that supports the hospital teams to recognize and respond to deterioration early

Each 'R' describes one of 5 steps needed to achieve better outcomes





# 5Rs to Rescue

## 1. Risk Assessment

*Keeping high risk patients visible in the ward*

Communication Board

*Know who the high-risk patients are*



Date: 24/12/2024	On Call Doctors: 8141			
Room & Bed	Name of all high risk patients (until discharge)	ASOS Score & Alert reason (if score > 10)	Alert!	Management Plan for Alert patients today
6F AS	6F AS	15	ASOS DISTRESS	ASOS + FMO, C&S monitoring, CME, P&P
6B MC	6B MC	13	ASOS DISTRESS	ASOS, C&S monitoring, M&S, C&S, P&P
6C DA	6C DA		ASOS DISTRESS	ASOS, C&S monitoring, M&S, C&S, P&P
6D NLO	6D NLO		ASOS DISTRESS	ASOS, C&S monitoring, M&S, C&S, P&P
6E DA	6E DA		ASOS DISTRESS	ASOS, C&S monitoring, M&S, C&S, P&P
6F MC	6F MC		ASOS DISTRESS	ASOS, C&S monitoring, M&S, C&S, P&P



'Huddles'

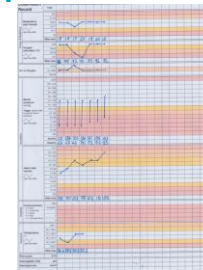
**ASOS Risk Assessment for every surgical patient**

## 2. Recognize

*Recognise deterioration early*



Display Vital Signs to make *early* recognition easy



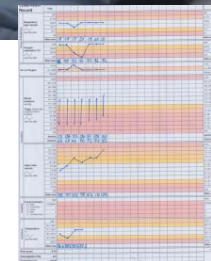
## 3. Respond 4. Reassess

*Rapid escalation & response*

*Increase vitals signs monitoring to at least 1 hourly*



*Reassess*





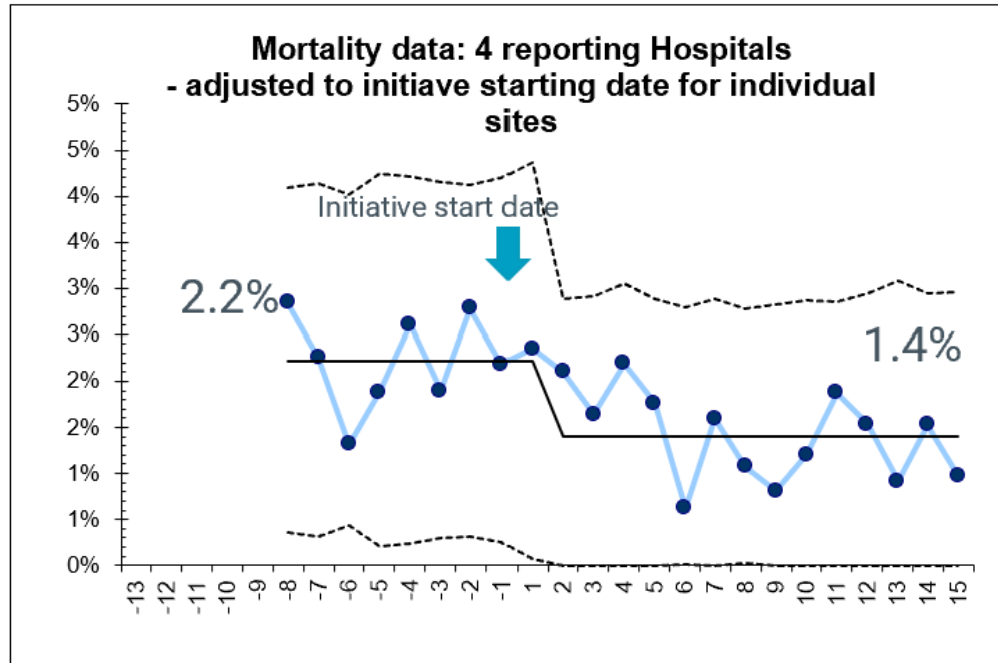
# “5Rs to Rescue” Project: Phase 1

## Phase 1

**Aim:** Build a scalable model  
(intensive innovation)

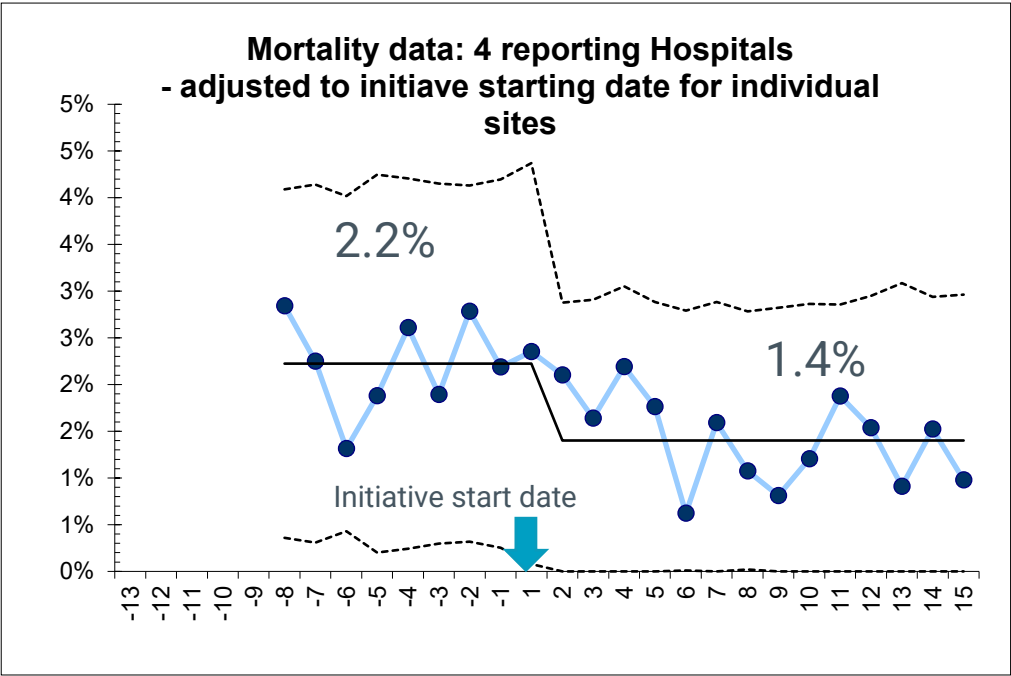
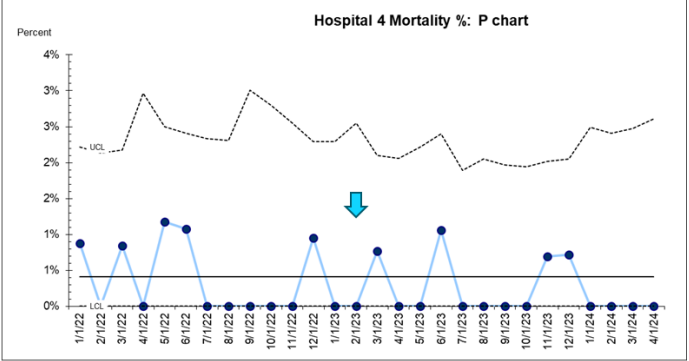
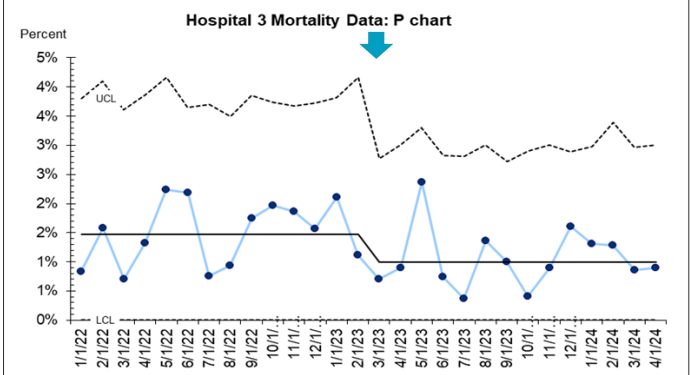
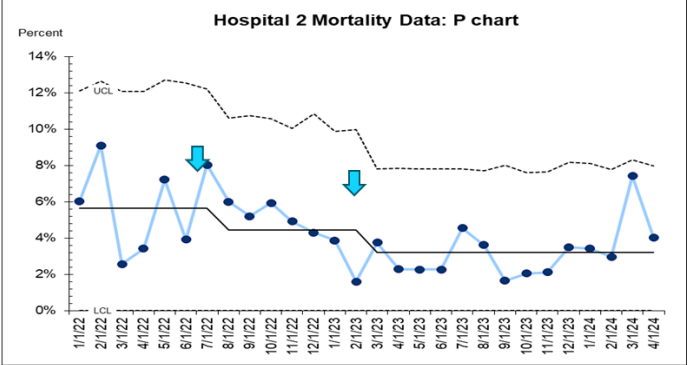
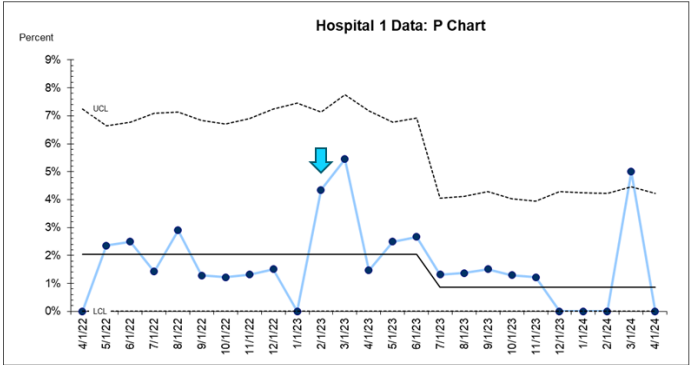
**Geography & Scope:** 9 hospitals  
across 4 countries in Africa  
(Ethiopia, Tanzania, South Africa  
& Uganda)

**Results:** \*36% decrease in  
mortality over 15 months



# Phase 1 Mortality Data – from 4 hospitals only

% Mortality in 4 of the pilot hospitals



# “5Rs to Rescue” Project: Phase 2

## Phase 1

**Aim:** Build a scalable model (intensive innovation)

**Geography & Scope:** 9 hospitals across 4 countries in Africa (Ethiopia, Tanzania, South Africa & Uganda)

**Results:** \*36% decrease in mortality over 15 months

## Phase 2

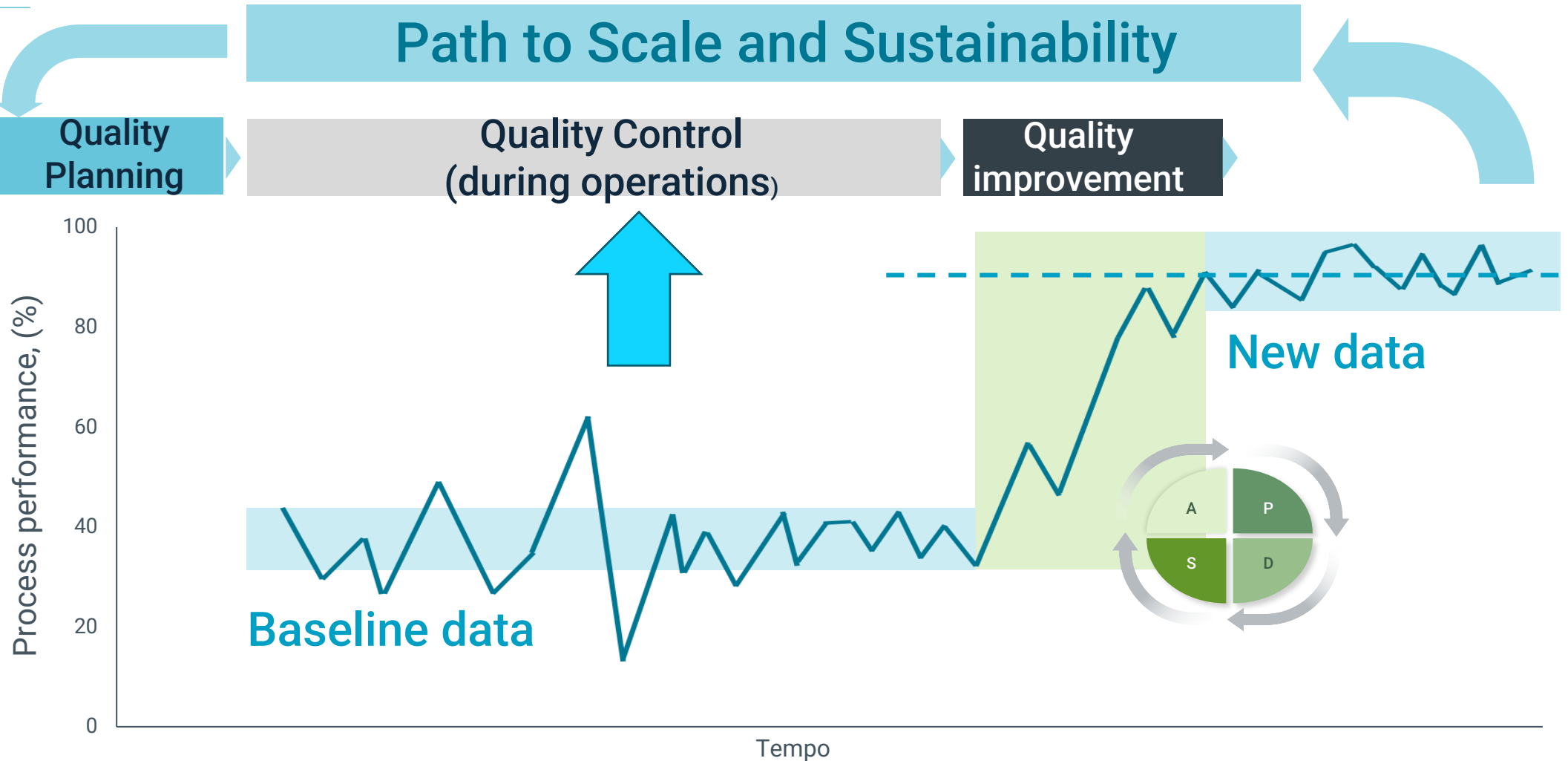
**Aim:** Refine a scalable model (intensive innovation) and **reduce post-operative mortality by 25%**

**Geography & Scope:** 20 hospitals across the same 4 countries in Africa

**The Need:** *To be able to measure mortality better*



# Joseph Juran's Quality Trilogy



# What is quality control?

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One way to describe it:

Comply with critical-to-quality requirements and international standards or regulatory authorities

***Method carried out every day to reliably deliver the care according to our “normal” or standard – during the care to meet patients' needs***



# Quality control (during care)

*"Inspection does not improve quality, nor does it guarantee quality. The inspection is too late. The quality, good or bad, is already in the product. As Harold F. Dodge said, "You can't inspect the quality of a product."*

Deming, Out of the Crisis,  
page 29

Date: 11 Sept. 2024

Bed #	Name of all high risk patients (until discharge)	ASOS Score & reason for high risk if score < 10	Time deterioration initiated / Note	Time nurse called doctor	Vital signs frequency increased to S 1 hourly	Time doctor saw patient	Time doctor reassessed patient after intervention
T-3	Mr. M. Z	Nurse Concern					
T-5	Mr. S	Nurse Concern					
T-8	Mr. B. B	12					
S-16	Mr. G.	16					
S-13	Mr. L.	10					

Safety Calendar





# Why is visual problem management important?

- Differentiate normal from abnormal during care
- Manage repetitive or chronic problems in a systematic way;





# Overcoming common challenges in using data for improvement

## ESSENTIALS

### Using data for improvement



OPEN ACCESS

Amar Shah *chief quality officer and consultant forensic psychiatrist, national improvement lead for the Mental Health Safety Improvement Programme*

East London NHS Foundation Trust, London, E1 8DE, UK

One of the key challenges faced by healthcare teams across the globe is being able to access data that is routinely collected, in order to use it for improvement. Large volumes of data are collected in healthcare, but often little is available to staff or service users in a timescale or in a form that allows it to be useful for improvement. One way to work around this is to have a simple form of measurement on the unit, clinic, or ward that the team own and update. This could be in the form of a safety cross<sup>8</sup> or tally chart. A safety cross (fig 3) is a simple visual monthly calendar on the wall which allows teams to identify when a safety event (such as a fall) occurred on the ward. The team simply colours in each day green when no fall occurred, or colours in red the days when a fall occurred. It allows the team to own the data related to a safety event that they care about and easily see how many events are occurring over a month. Being able to see such data transparently on a ward allows teams to update data in real time and be able to respond to it effectively.



# Method of tracking and displaying data: Safety Cross

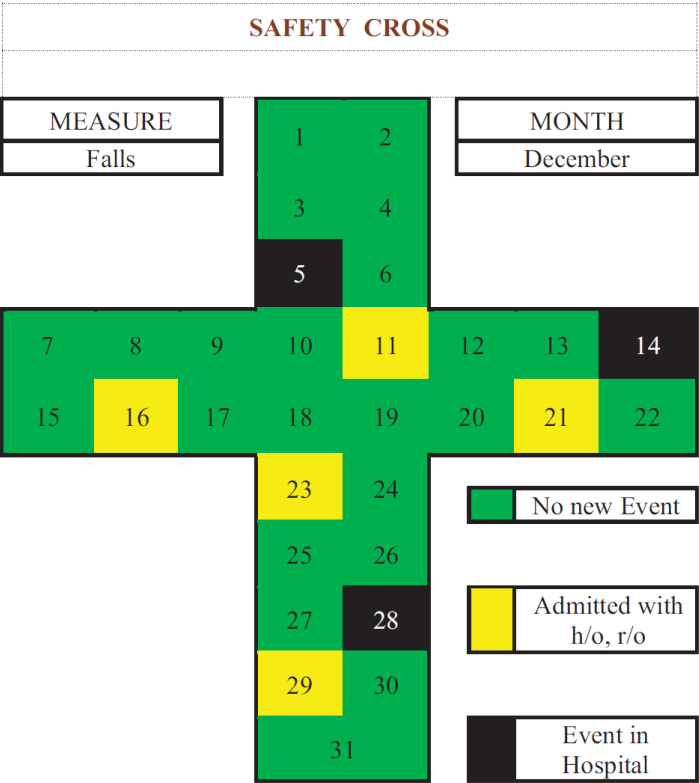


Figure 1: Safety cross showing the data on the metric ‘Falls’.

References: Pressure Ulcers to Zero Collaborative;  
Using data for improvement



Fig 3 Example of a safety cross in use





# Method of tracking and displaying the outcomes data: Safety Cross/Safety Calendar

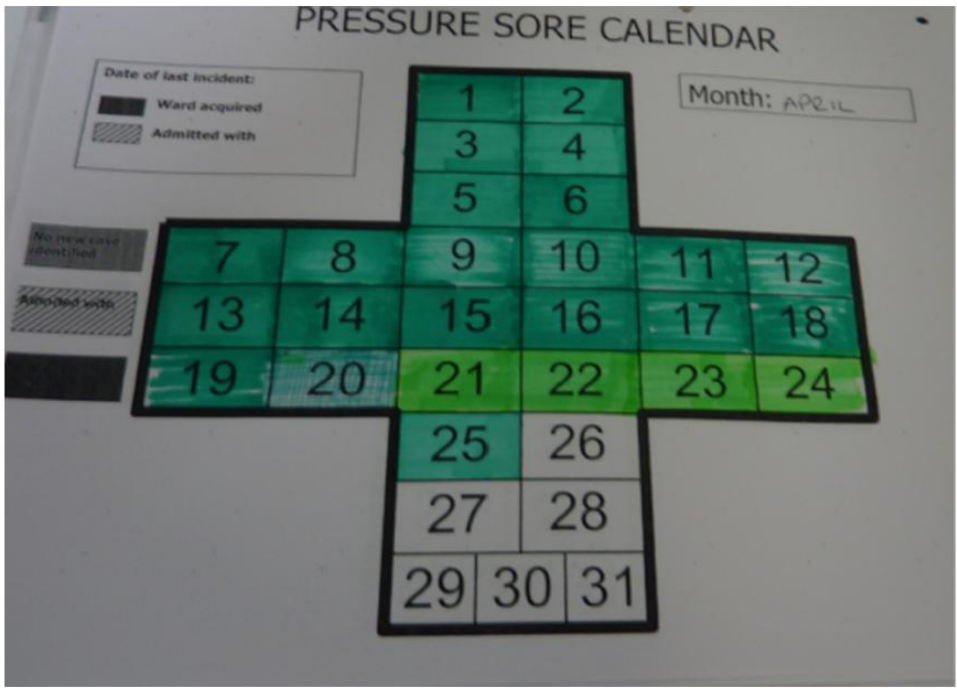
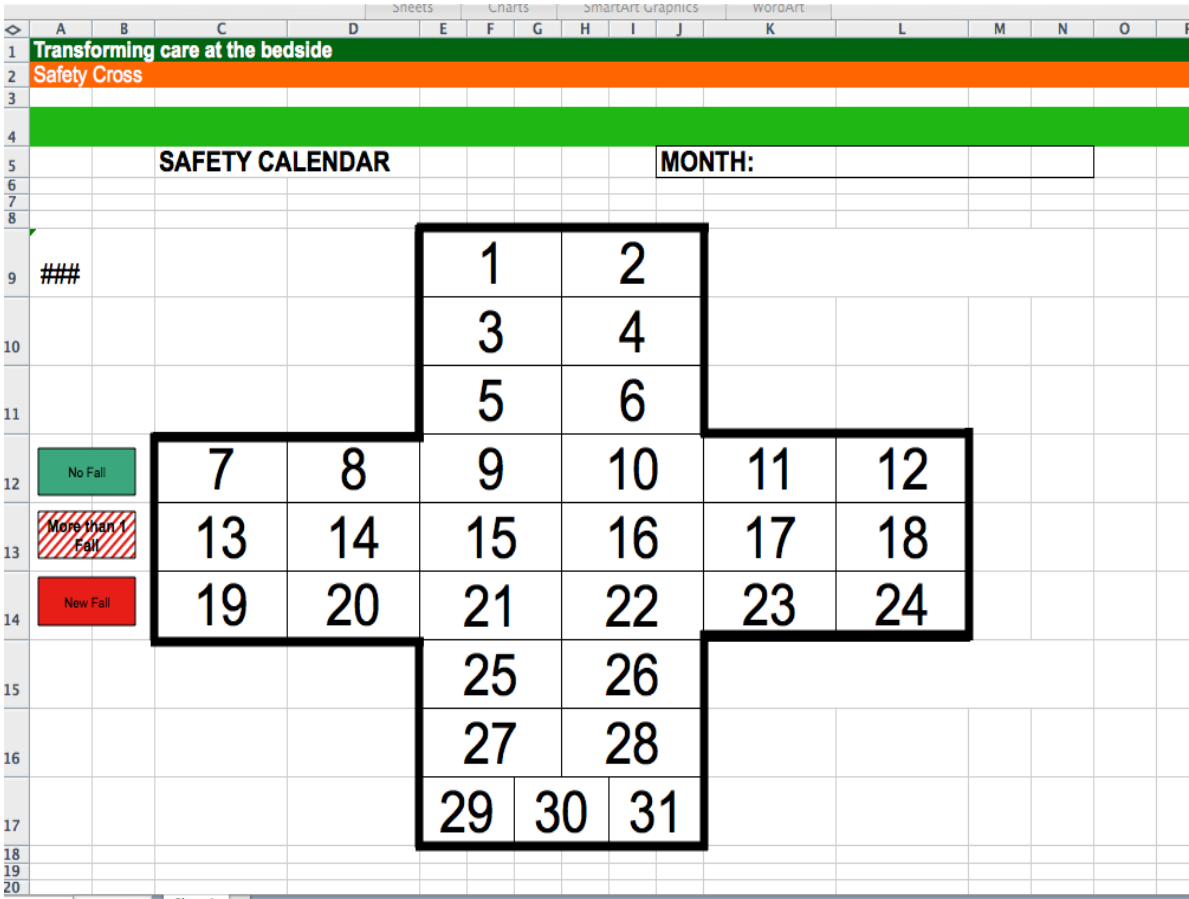


FIGURE 18 Safety Crosses at (top) site B (ward 1); and (bottom) site C (ward 1). (continued)



Reference: The 10-year impact of a ward-level quality improvement intervention in acute hospitals: a multiple methods study;



# The 5Rs Safety Calendar: adapted from the Welsh Safety Calendar

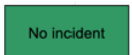
Developed for the 1000 Lives Campaign in Wales, UK

A tool used to **record rare events**.

One cross for each calendar month  
Each cell is a day of the month

*The original instructions:*

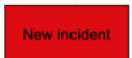
## KEY



No incident



More than one incident



One incident

Transforming care at the bedside											
Safety Cross											
SAFETY CALENDAR											
MONTH:											
###			1	2							
			3	4							
			5	6							
No Fall	7	8	9	10	11	12					
More than 1 Fall	13	14	15	16	17	18					
New Fall	19	20	21	22	23	24					
			25	26							
			27	28							
			29	30	31						

Developed by Annette Bartley



# Measures to know if the changes are an improvement

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**Aim:** to reduce postoperative mortality by 25% within 12 months so **we want to look at deaths in the participating surgical ward**

**Measure postoperative deaths (as an outcome measure):**

- i. Number of postoperative deaths/month
- ii. % postoperative deaths/surgeries/month

**Also measure ALL deaths (as a balancing measure):**

- i. Number of all deaths/month
- ii. % all deaths/admissions/month



# The 5Rs Safety Calendar (adaptations)

WARD

MONTH

YEAR

Consecutive incident	Day of month of incident	ASOS score	Relation of incident to surgery			
			Non-	Pre-	Intra-	Post-
			operative			
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
Total for the month						

Table for analysis  
of deaths.  
Complete for  
each patient who  
died

Total admissions  
and surgeries for  
the month

1 0		2 2					
3		4					
5		6					
7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18		
19	20	21	22	23	24		
25		26					
27		28					
29	30	31					
Total Admissions							
Total Surgeries							

Space to write in the  
exact number of  
deaths each day





# 5Rs Safety Calendar table

Note: The **ASOS Score**  
= African Surgical  
Outcomes Safety Score  
(Risk Score)

Consecutive incident	Day of month of incident	ASOS score	Relation of incident to surgery			
			Non-	Pre-	Intra-	Post-
			operative			
1						
2						
3						
4						



Complete the ward name, year and month

Getting Started

WARD *General Surgery* MONTH *June* YEAR *2024*

Consecutive Incident	Day of month of incident	ASOS score	Relation of incident to surgery			
			Non-	Pre-	Intra-	Post-
			operative			
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
Total for the month						

1		2			
3		4			
5		6			
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
		25	26		
		27	28		
29	30	31			

Total Admissions	
Total Surgeries	

Adjust the number of calendar days for this month




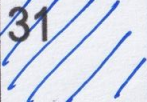
1<sup>st</sup> day if  
the  
month

WARD *General Surgery*

MONTH *June*

YEAR *2024*

Consecutive incident	Day of month of incident	ASOS score	Relation of incident to surgery			
			Non-	Pre-	Intra-	Post-
			operative			
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
Total for the month						

1 		2			
3		4			
5		6			
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
		25	26		
		27	28		
29	30	31 			

Total Admissions	
Total Surgeries	



WARD *General Surgery*

MONTH *June*

YEAR *2024*

Add information to the table for each patient who died

Consecutive incident	Day of month of incident	ASOS score	Relation of incident to surgery			
			Non-	Pre-	Intra-	Post-
			operative			
1	<i>2</i>	<i>15</i>		<i>X</i>		
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
Total for the month						

1 <i>0</i>		2 <i>1</i>			
3		4			
5		6			
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
		25	26		
		27	28		
29	30	31 <i>/ / / / /</i>			

Total Admissions

Total Surgeries



WARD *General Surgery*

MONTH *June*

YEAR *2024*

Consecutive incident	Day of month of incident	ASOS score	Relation of incident to surgery			
			Non-	Pre-	Intra-	Post-
			operative			
1	<i>2</i>	<i>15</i>		<i>X</i>		
2	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>				<i>X</i>
3	<i>14</i>	<i>/</i>				<i>X</i>
4	<i>18</i>	<i>10</i>				<i>X</i>
5	<i>19</i>	<i>7</i>				<i>X</i>
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
Total for the month						

1 <i>0</i>		2 <i>1</i>			
3 <i>0</i>		4 <i>0</i>			
5 <i>0</i>		6 <i>0</i>			
7 <i>0</i>	8 <i>0</i>	9 <i>0</i>	10 <i>0</i>	11 <i>0</i>	12 <i>0</i>
13 <i>0</i>	14 <i>2</i>	15 <i>0</i>	16 <i>0</i>	17 <i>0</i>	18 <i>1</i>
19 <i>1</i>	20 <i>0</i>	21 <i>0</i>	22 <i>0</i>	23	24
25		26			
27		28			
29	30	31 <i>/ / / / /</i>			

Total Admissions	
Total Surgeries	



WARD *General Surgery*

MONTH *June*

YEAR *2024*

Consecutive incident	Day of month of incident	ASOS score	Relation of incident to surgery			
			Non-operative	Pre-operative	Intra-operative	Post-operative
1	2	15		X		
2	14	12				X
3	14	/				X
4	18	10				X
5	19	7				X
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
Total for			0	1	0	4

1	0	2	1								
3	0	4	0								
5	0	6	0								
7	0	8	0	9	0	10	0	11	0	12	0
13	0	14	2	15	0	16	0	17	0	18	1
19	1	20	0	21	0	22	0	23	0	24	0
25	0	26	0								
27	0	28	0								
29	0	30	0	31	/						

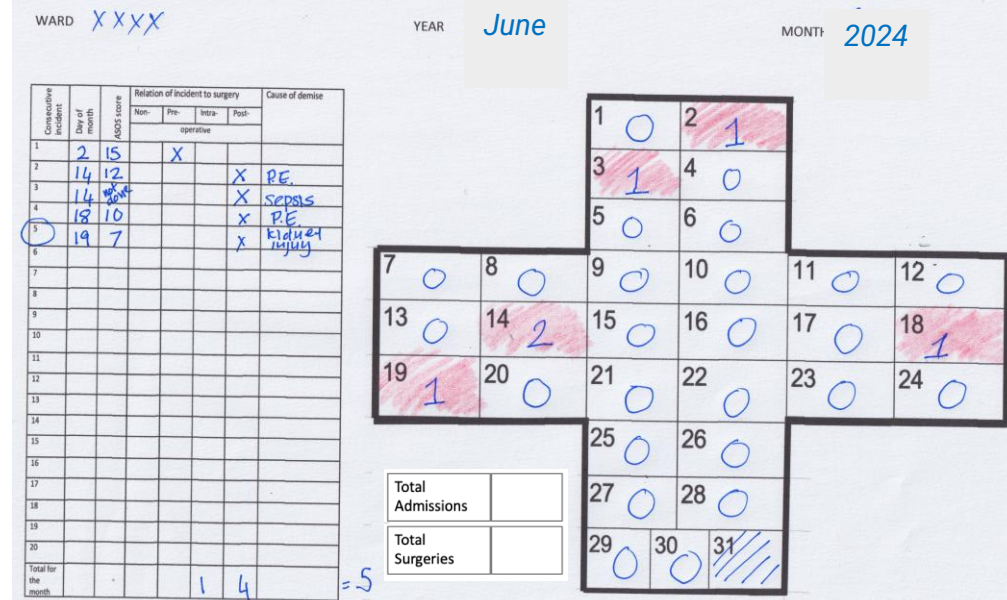
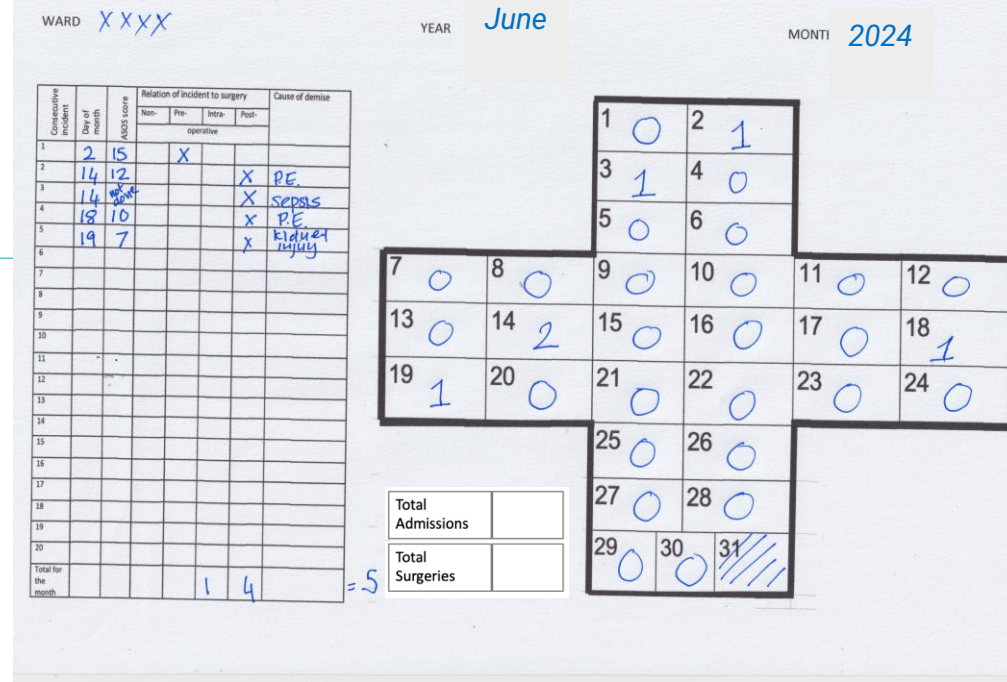
Total Admissions	129
Total Surgeries	105

Total Admissions	129
Total Surgeries	105

Complete the denominator box







These three charts display the same data for the same month, just colored in differently



SURGICAL WARD

MARCH

2025

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Admissions																																
Surgeries																																

Total Admissions: 127

Total Surgeries: 100

Dr. H. H. H.

WARD C2

MONTH April

YEAR 2025

Consecutive Incident	Day of month of incident	NOS score	Relation of incident to surgery				TLC
			Non-operative	Pre-operative	Intra-operative	Post-operative	
1	1	1					
2	2	2					
3	3	3					
4	4	4					
5	5	5					
6	6	6					
7	7	7					
8	8	8					
9	9	9					
10	10	10					
11	11	11					
12	12	12					
13	13	13					
14	14	14					
15	15	15					
16	16	16					
17	17	17					
18	18	18					
19	19	19					
20	20	20					
21	21	21					
22	22	22					
23	23	23					
24	24	24					
25	25	25					
26	26	26					
27	27	27					
28	28	28					
29	29	29					
30	30	30					
31	31	31					

Total Admissions:

Total Surgeries:

WARD SURGICAL DEPT

MONTH FEBRUARY

YEAR 2025

Consecutive Incident	Day of month of incident	NOS score	Relation of incident to surgery				TLC
			Non-operative	Pre-operative	Intra-operative	Post-operative	
1	1	1					
2	2	2					
3	3	3					
4	4	4					
5	5	5					
6	6	6					
7	7	7					
8	8	8					
9	9	9					
10	10	10					
11	11	11					
12	12	12					
13	13	13					
14	14	14					
15	15	15					
16	16	16					
17	17	17					
18	18	18					
19	19	19					
20	20	20					
21	21	21					
22	22	22					
23	23	23					
24	24	24					
25	25	25					
26	26	26					
27	27	27					
28	28	28					
29	29	29					
30	30	30					
31	31	31					

Total Admissions: 204

Total Surgeries: 71

WARD FSW

MONTH APRIL

YEAR 2025

Consecutive Incident	Day of month of incident	NOS score	Relation of incident to surgery				TLC
			Non-operative	Pre-operative	Intra-operative	Post-operative	
1	1	1					
2	2	2					
3	3	3					
4	4	4					
5	5	5					
6	6	6					
7	7	7					
8	8	8					
9	9	9					
10	10	10					
11	11	11					
12	12	12					
13	13	13					
14	14	14					
15	15	15					
16	16	16					
17	17	17					
18	18	18					
19	19	19					
20	20	20					
21	21	21					
22	22	22					
23	23	23					
24	24	24					
25	25	25					
26	26	26					
27	27	27					
28	28	28					
29	29	29					
30	30	30					
31	31	31					

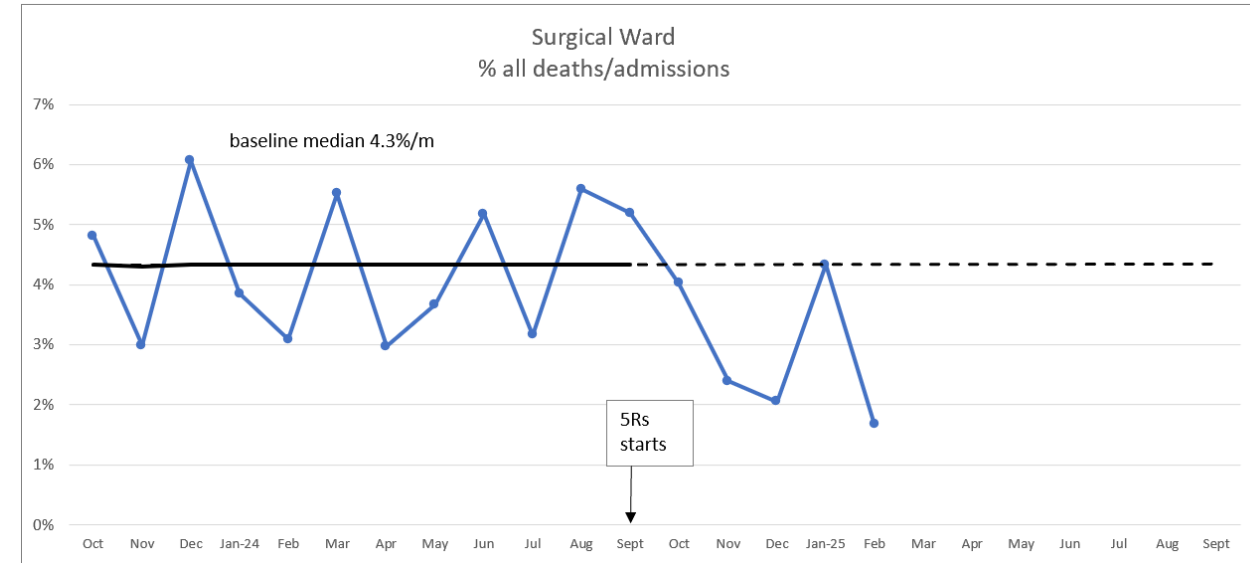
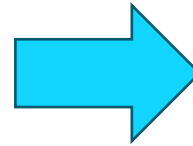
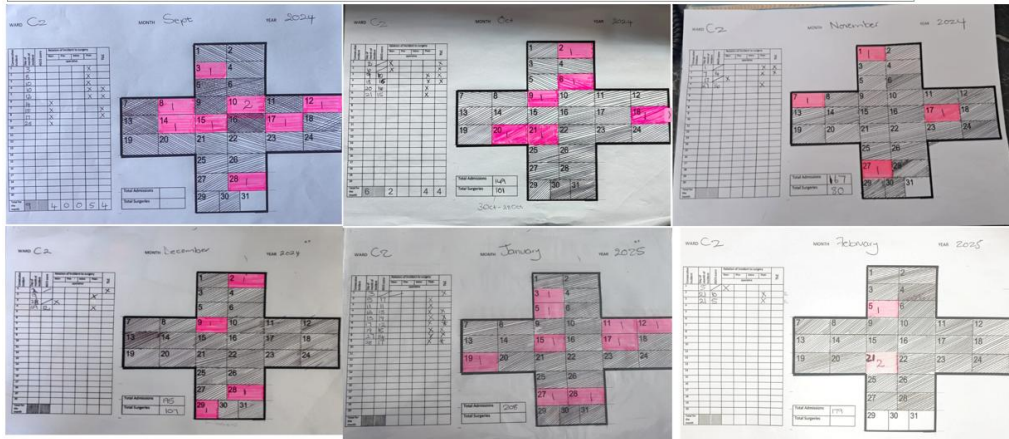
Total Admissions:

Total Surgeries:





# Tracking mortality over time as Run Charts



Intervention data Safety Calendars  
(September 2024 to March 2025)

% all deaths/admissions/month

# Tracking mortality over time as Run Charts

## The run chart: a simple analytical tool for learning from variation in healthcare processes

Rocco J Perla,<sup>1</sup> Lloyd P Provost,<sup>2</sup> Sandy K Murray<sup>3</sup>

### DEFINITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A RUN CHART

A run chart is a graphical display of data plotted in some type of order. The horizontal axis is most often a time scale (eg, days, weeks, months, quarters) but could also include sequential patients, visits or procedures. The vertical axis represents the quality indicator being studied (eg, infection rate, number of patient falls, readmission rate). Usually, the median is calculated and used as the chart's centreline. The median is required when using the probability-based rules to interpret a run chart (see below). The median is used as the centerline because (1) it provides the point at which half the observations are expected to be above and below the centerline and (2) the median is not influenced by extreme values in the data. Goal lines and annotations of

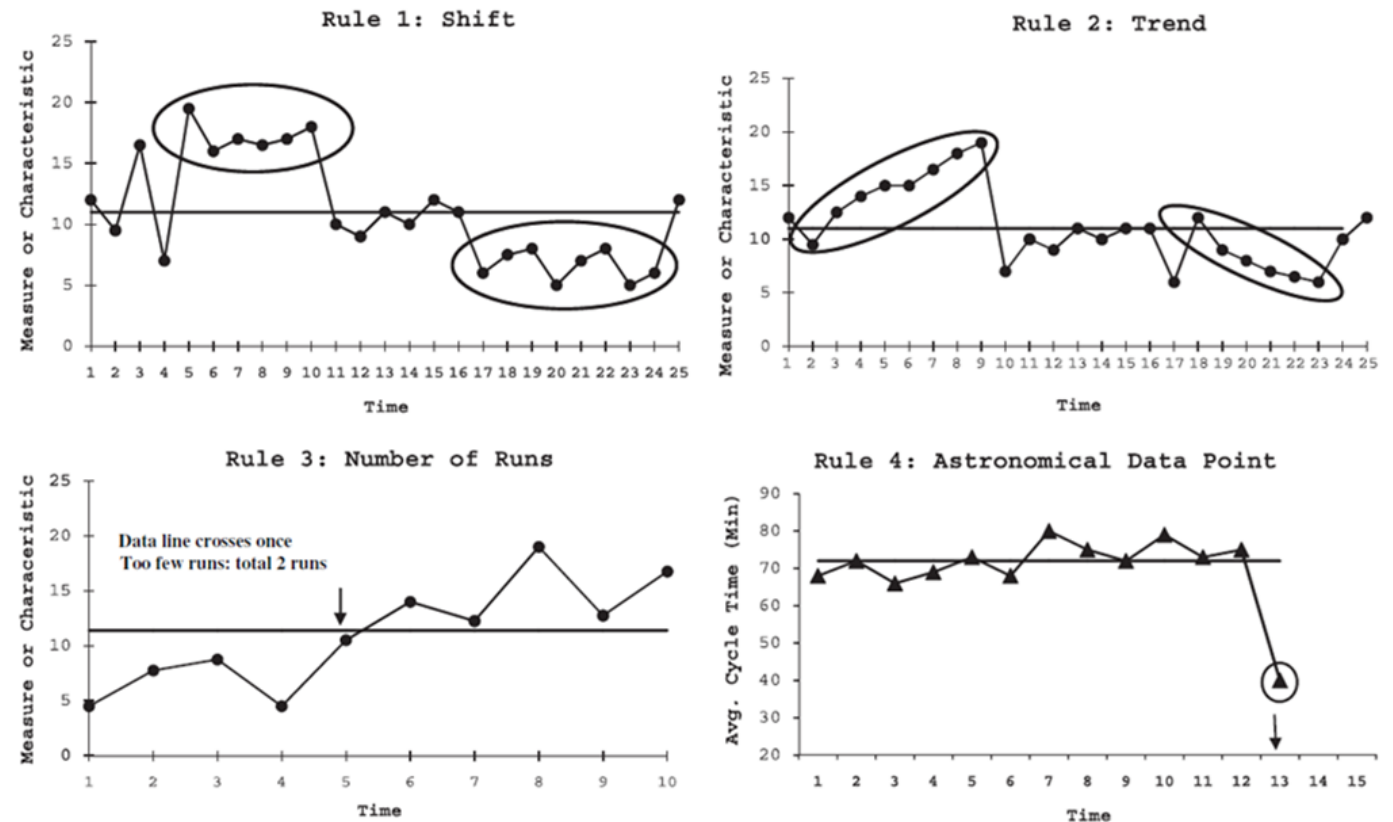
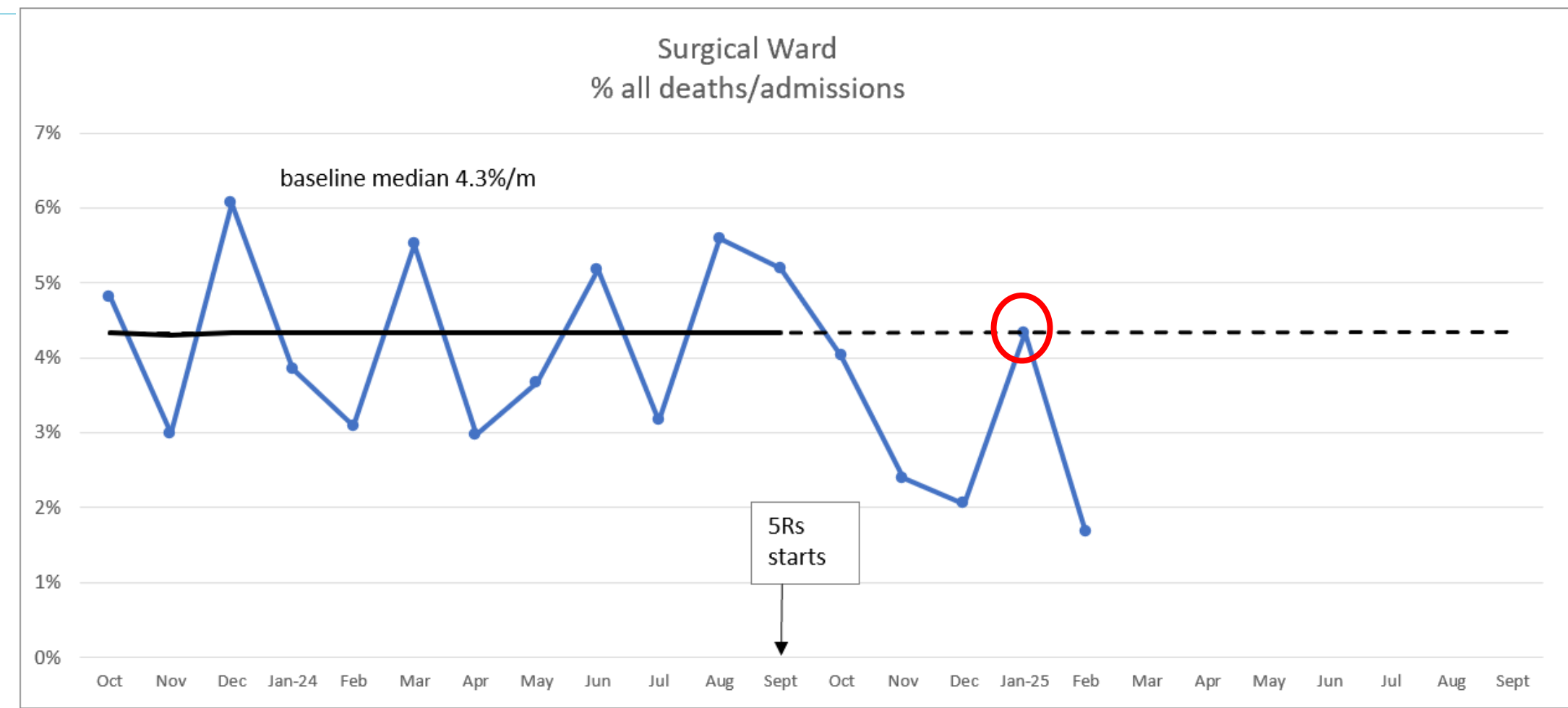


Figure 3 Rules for identifying non-random signals with run charts.

# Tracking mortality over time as Run Charts



WARD **Surgical D3**

MONTH **March**

YEAR **2025**

Consecutive incident	Day of month of incident	ASOS score	Relation of incident to surgery			
			Non-	Pre-	Intra-	Post-
			operative			
1	3					X
2	5					X
3	6	17		X		
4	8	19		X		
5	14	10	X			
6	29		X			
7						

1	0	2	0		
3	1	4	0		
5	1	6	1		
7	0	8	1	9	0
10	0	11	0	12	0
13	0	14	1	15	0
16	0	17	0	18	0
19	0	20	0	21	0
22	0	23	0	24	0
25	0	26	0		
27	0	28	0		
29	1	30	0	31	0

17					
18					
19					
20					
Total for the month		2	2	0	2

Total Admissions	166
Total Surgeries	125



WARD Surgical D3

MONTH April

YEAR 2025

Consecutive incident	Day of month of incident	ASOS score	Relation of incident to surgery			
			Non-	Pre-	Intra-	Post-
			operative			
1	15	16				X
2	22	14				X
3	24		X			
4						
5						

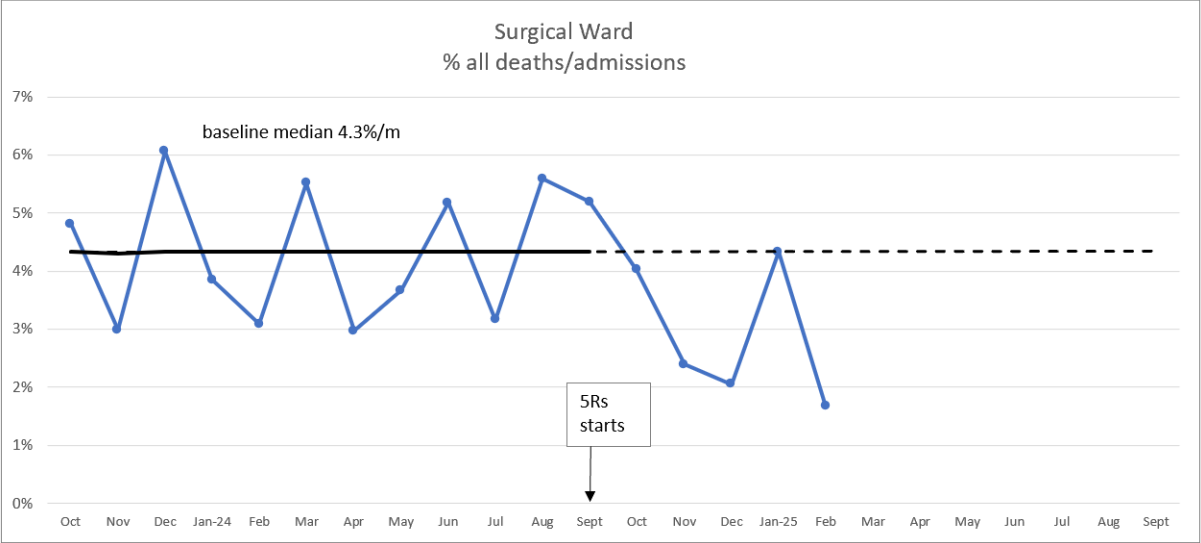
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
Total for the month					

1	0	2	0
3	0	4	0
5	0	6	0
7	0	8	0
9	0	10	0
11	0	12	0
13	0	14	0
15	1	16	0
17	0	18	0
19	0	20	0
21	0	22	1
23	0	24	1
25	0	26	0
27	0	28	0
29	0	30	0
31			

Total Admissions	154
Total Surgeries	122



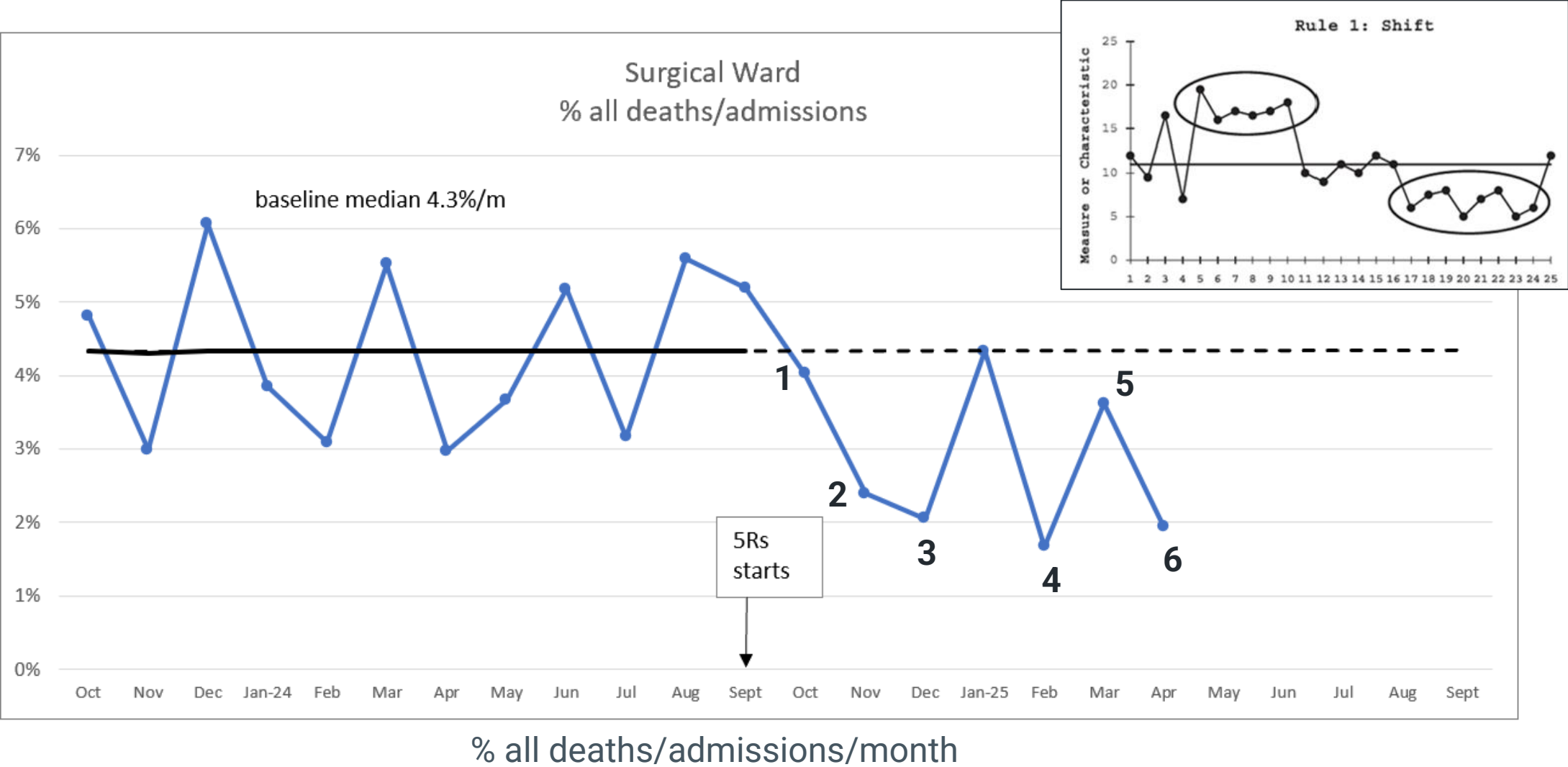
Data elements					Indicators	
Months	<b>B</b> # Admissions	<b>D</b> # Surgeries for surgical ward	<b>A</b> # Deaths in surgical ward	<b>C</b> Post-operative deaths in surgical ward	% all deaths/admissions	% post-operative deaths/surgeries
Sept-23	150	110	8	4	5,3%	3,6%
Oct	187	102	9	5	4,8%	4,9%
Nov	167	106	5	5	3,0%	4,7%
Dec	165	95	10	2	6,1%	2,1%
Jan-24	182	98	7	6	3,8%	6,1%
Feb	194	106	6	3	3,1%	2,8%
Mar	145	103	8	5	5,5%	4,9%
Apr	168	115	5	2	3,0%	1,7%
May	191	118	7	5	3,7%	4,2%
Jun	174	99	9	4	5,2%	4,0%
Jul	158	105	5	3	3,2%	2,9%
Aug	143	113	8	4	5,6%	3,5%
Sept	154	116	8	4	5,2%	3,4%
Oct	149	101	6	3	4,0%	3,0%
Nov	167	80	4	2	2,4%	2,5%
Dec	195	107	4	2	2,1%	1,9%
Jan-25	208	112	9	2	4,3%	1,8%
Feb	179	130	3	2	1,7%	1,5%
Mar						
Apr						



1. Using the two Safety Calendars on your table, complete highlighted data fields in the table
2.  $\% \text{ all deaths/admissions} = A / B \times 100\%$
3.  $\% \text{ post-operative deaths/surgeries} = C / D \times 100\%$
4. Complete the run chart above



# Tracking mortality over time as Run Charts







Dank u! Thank you! Obrigado!  
Siyabonga! Dankie!