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Introduction

- The paramount goal of health system is to **benefit patient without causing harm**.
- Patient safety, a **critical component** of quality care, is **essential** for establishing an **effective** and **efficient** patient care system.
- WHO's **"A Decade of Patient Safety 2020-2030"** initiative aims to improve patient safety at point-of-care.
- Secondary health facilities** such as District and Sub-District Hospitals are **crucial linkage between primary health care and specialized clinical care**, as they often handle complex health conditions.
- There is an **evidence gap** in patient safety and quality assessment of secondary health facilities.
- SaQushal toolkit** was designed to help health facilities in **self-evaluation of patient safety**.
- A **facility-based** assessment was conducted to inform on the **current situation of patient safety** at secondary level health facilities in **Jaipur Administrative Division** using SaQushal toolkit.

- 1 in every 10** patient is **harmed** in healthcare settings
- 4 in 100** people die from unsafe care in **low-and-middle income** countries

Results

Performance of health facilities under four Areas of Concern and their respective standards

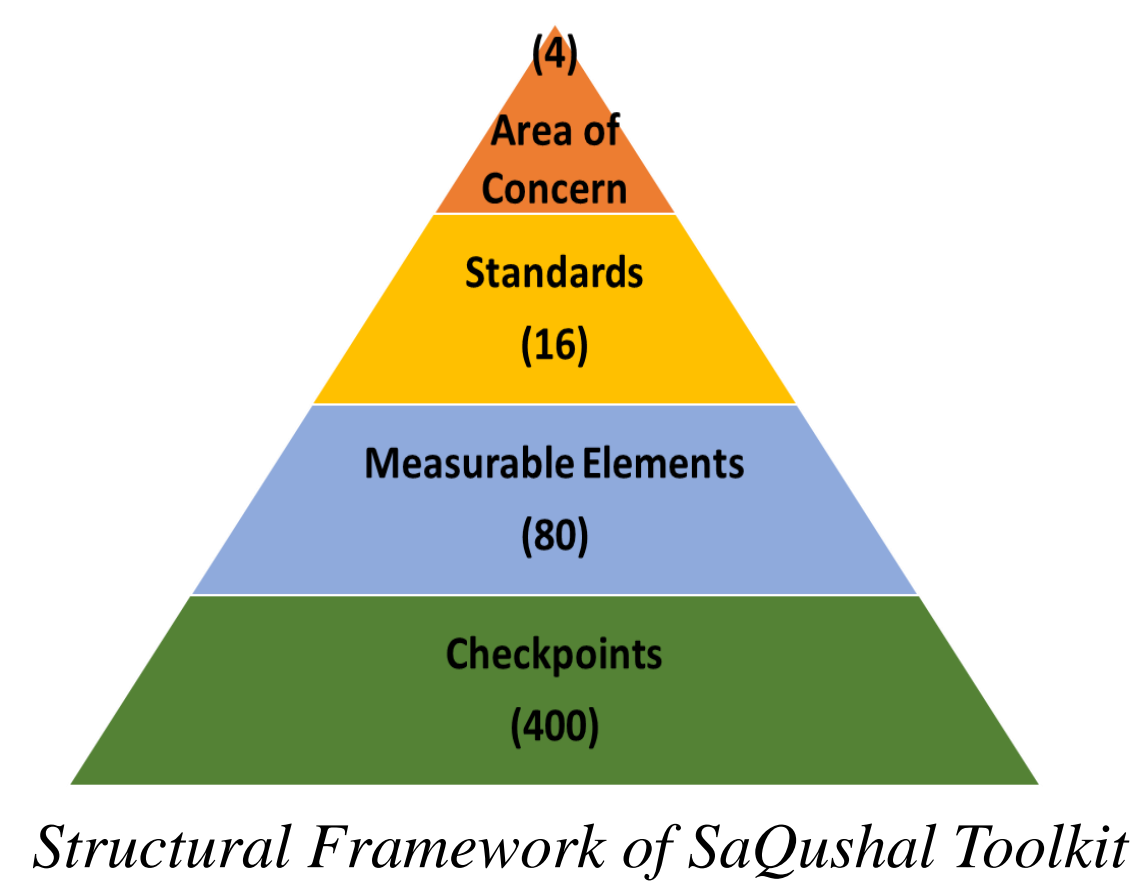
Area of Concern	Standards	Maximum Possible Score	Health Facilities Score, n (%)								Summary Score	
			SDH, Ramgarh	SDH, Phagi	SDH, Mahu	SDH, Dudu	DH, Dausa	DH, Alwar	Mean score	Median score (IQR)		
A- Safe Patient Care Processes	A1- Medication safety	50	15 (30%)	14 (28%)	11 (22%)	12 (24%)	23 (46%)	24 (48%)	16.5	15.00 (12.5, 21.0)		
	A2- Infection prevention & control	50	23 (46%)	15 (30%)	16 (32%)	16 (32%)	26 (52%)	20 (40%)	19.33	19.33 (16.0, 22.3)		
	A3- Safe patient handling & harm prevention	50	26 (52%)	20 (40%)	19 (38%)	21 (42%)	26 (52%)	27 (54%)	23.17	23.17 (20.3, 26.0)		
	A4- Communication at transition of care	50	25 (50%)	22 (44%)	22 (44%)	21 (42%)	26 (52%)	26 (52%)	23.67	23.67 (22.0, 25.8)		
	Overall Score	200	89 (45%)	71 (36%)	68 (34%)	70 (35%)	101 (51%)	97 (49%)	82.67	82.67 (70.3, 95.0)		
B- Clinical Risk Management	B1- Safety in general clinical care	50	15 (30%)	20 (40%)	18 (36%)	18 (36%)	36 (72%)	36 (72%)	23.83	20.00 (18.0, 32.0)		
	B2- Safety in RMNCHA	50	30 (60%)	28 (56%)	24 (48%)	26 (52%)	40 (80%)	36 (72%)	30.67	30.00 (26.5, 34.5)		
	B3- Speciality clinical services	50	8 (16%)	4 (8%)	9 (18%)	7 (14%)	18 (36%)	16 (32%)	10.33	9.00 (7.3, 14.3)		
	B4- High-risk clinical processes	50	5 (10%)	22 (44%)	7 (14%)	8 (16%)	37 (74%)	33 (66%)	18.67	18.67 (7.3, 30.3)		
	Overall Score	200	58 (29%)	74 (37%)	58 (29%)	59 (30%)	131 (66%)	121 (61%)	83.5	74.00 (58.3, 109.3)		
C- Safe Care Environment	C1- Physical safety	50	9 (18%)	6 (12%)	6 (12%)	15 (30%)	12 (24%)	9.33	9.00 (6.5, 11.3)			
	C2- Hygiene and environment control	50	8 (16%)	11 (22%)	9 (18%)	9 (18%)	15 (30%)	13 (26%)	10.83	10.83 (9.0, 12.5)		
	C3- Human factors & ergonomics	50	22 (44%)	16 (32%)	17 (34%)	16 (32%)	22 (44%)	18 (36%)	18.5	18.00 (16.3, 21.0)		
	C4- Support and maintenance services	50	10 (20%)	12 (24%)	11 (22%)	11 (22%)	19 (38%)	19 (38%)	13.67	12.00 (11.0, 17.3)		
	Overall Score	200	49 (25%)	47 (24%)	43 (22%)	42 (21%)	71 (36%)	62 (31%)	52.33	49.00 (44.0, 58.8)		
D- Patient Safety System	D1- Leadership and governance	50	3 (6%)	4 (8%)	4 (8%)	6 (12%)	5 (10%)	4.33	4.00 (4.0, 4.8)			
	D2- Reporting and learning system	50	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	0.33	0 (0, 0.8)			
	D3- Patient engagement	50	7 (14%)	10 (20%)	7 (14%)	7 (14%)	10 (20%)	8 (16%)	8.17	8.00 (7.0, 9.5)		
	D4- Ability at point of care	50	10 (20%)	16 (32%)	14 (28%)	12 (24%)	18 (36%)	17 (34%)	14.5	14.50 (12.5, 16.8)		
	Overall Score	200	20 (10%)	30 (15%)	25 (13%)	23 (12%)	35 (18%)	31 (16%)	27.33	27.33 (23.5, 30.8)		
Overall Score			216 (27%)	222 (28%)	194 (24%)	194 (24%)	338 (42%)	311 (39%)	245.83	222.00 (199.5, 288.8)		
Mean Score			54	55.5	48.5	48.5	84.5	77.75	-	-		



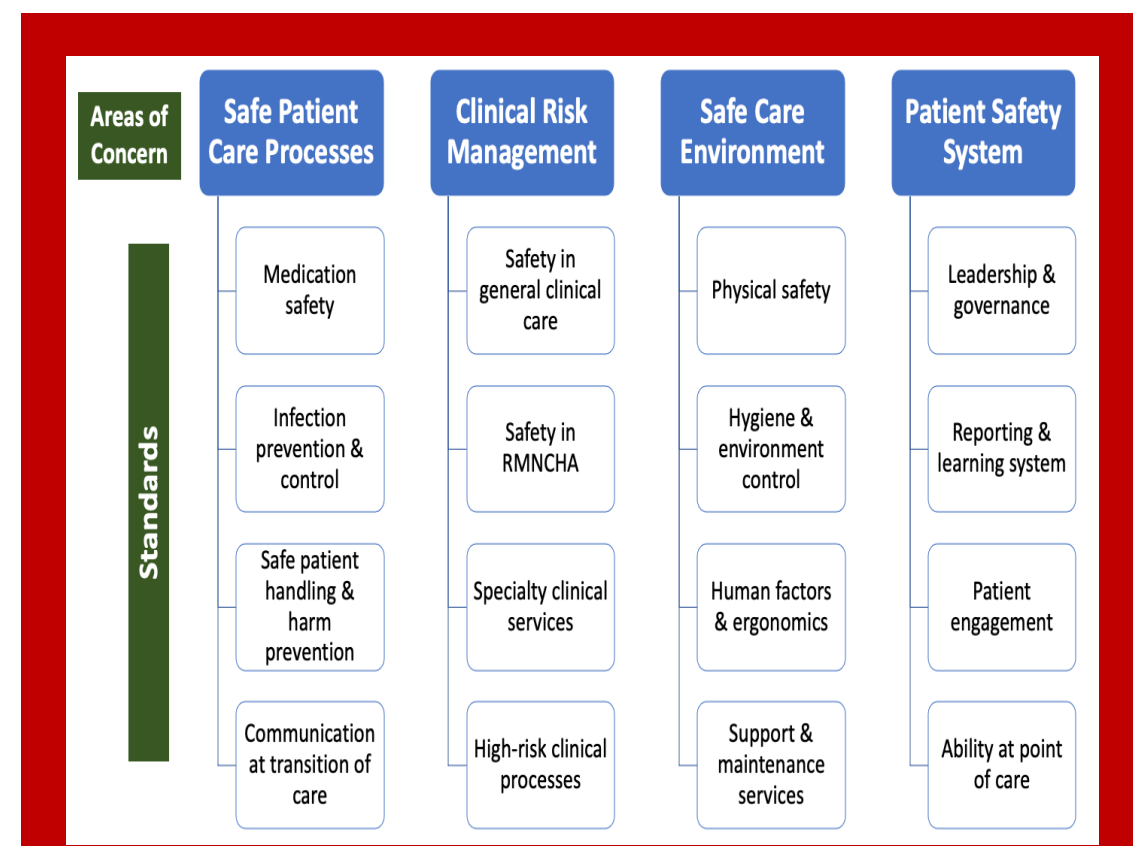
Patient safety is absence of preventable harm and reduction of risk of unnecessary harm associated with health care to an acceptable minimum.

Methodology

- Study type: Cross-sectional study
- Study duration: Jul – Sep 2023
- Study setting: Randomly selected **two** District Hospitals and **four** Sub-District Hospitals in Jaipur Administrative Division
- Study tool: NHRSC-NHM designed **SaQushal toolkit**
- Data collection methods: **Interviews** of Principal Medical Officers, **observation**, and **record review**.
- Assessment team: **Four doctors** (medical, surgical, diagnostic & CM) and **one nursing officer**
- Scoring: Assessed on **four Areas of Concern** – Safe Patient Care Processes, Clinical Risk Management, Safe Care Environment and Patient Safety System, comprising of **400 checkpoints** in total. A score of **2 for full compliance**, 1 for partial and 0 for non-compliance was recorded.
- Analysis: Scores summarized and compared using frequency, proportions, and mean or median.
- This analysis met the criteria of the MSF Ethics Review Board for **exemption** from ethics review

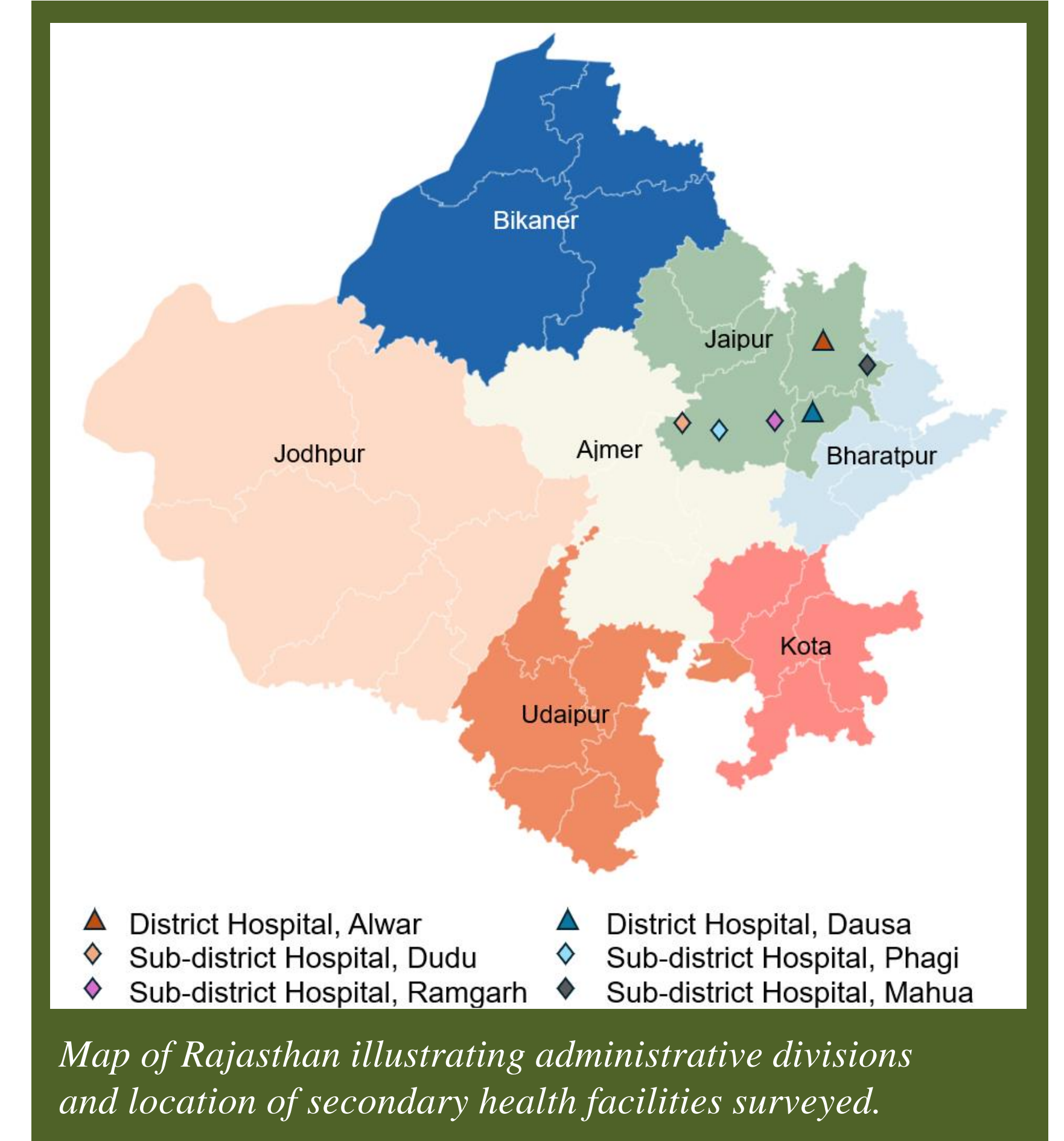


Structural Framework of SaQushal Toolkit

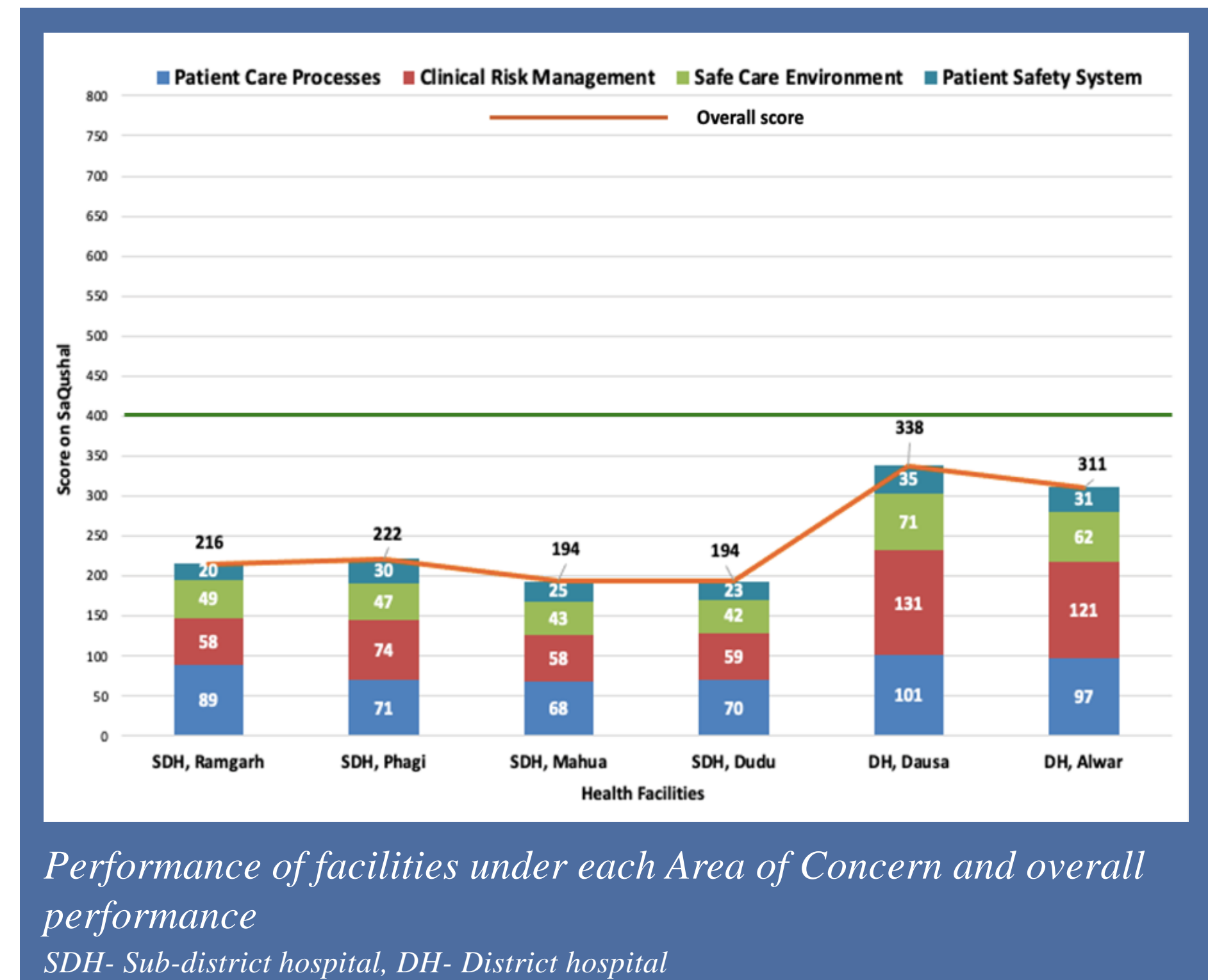


Overview of Areas of Concern and Standards in SaQushal toolkit
Image source: SaQushal toolkit

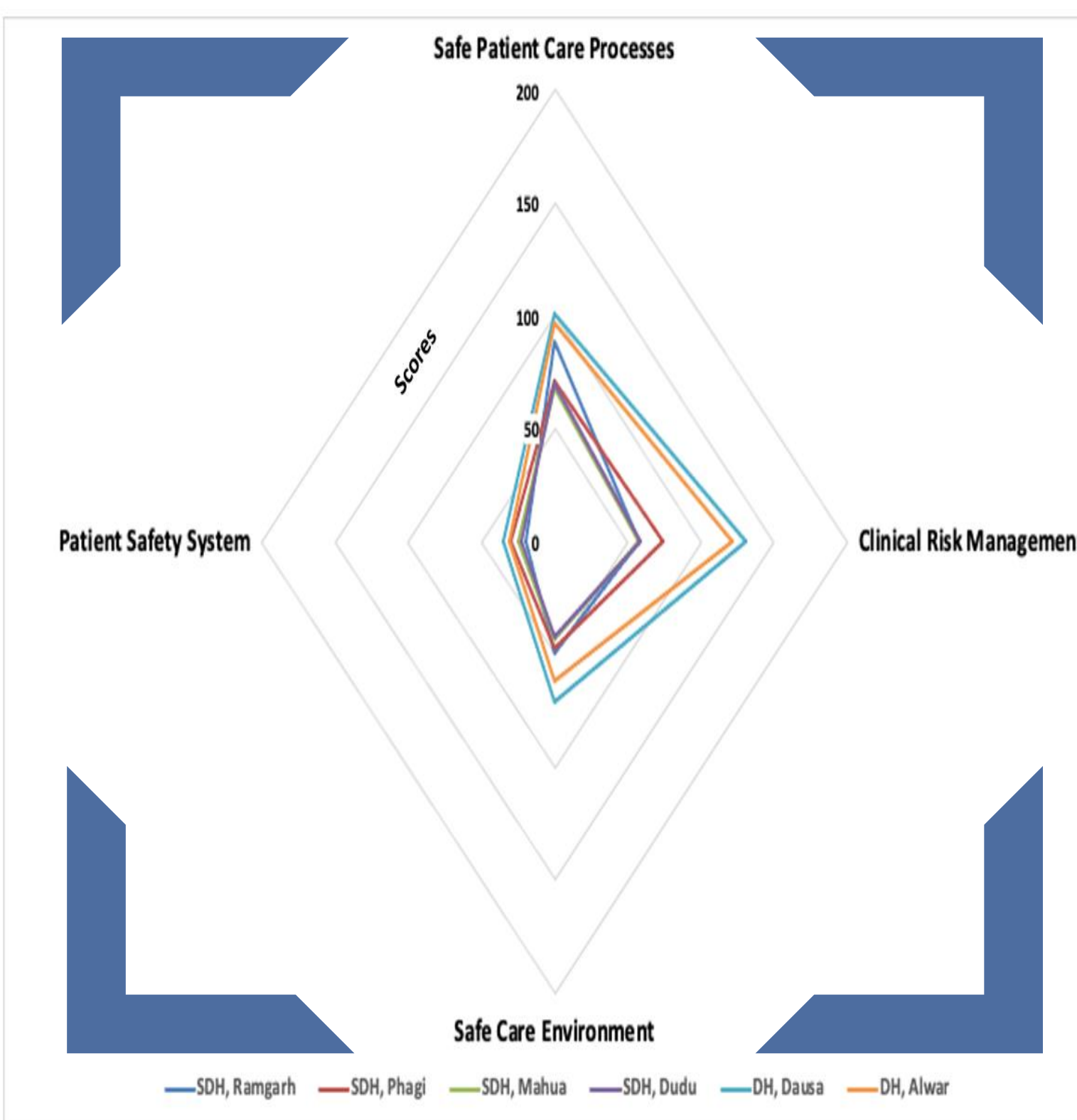
RMNCHA- Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health



Map of Rajasthan illustrating administrative divisions and location of secondary health facilities surveyed.



Performance of facilities under each Area of Concern and overall performance
SDH- Sub-district hospital, DH- District hospital



Facilities performed worst in:

"Patient Safety System" Area of Concern

"Reporting and Learning System" Standards

Comparison of performance of facilities under each Area of Concern

Conclusion

- Mean score of facilities remains low, **none of the facilities scored over 50%**.
- Facilities performed **relatively better** in **Clinical Risk Management** and **worst** in **Patient Safety System**.
- Most facilities did **well** in **"Safety in RMNCHA"**, however fared **extremely poor** in **"Reporting and Learning System"**.
- The assessed facilities **were not in accordance with patient safety standards**.
- Findings reflect **areas of improvements** in respective healthcare facility.

Recommendations

- Large-scale nation-wide assessment of healthcare facilities to strengthen evidence.
- Encourage repeated self monitoring by facilities.

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