Ready, Set, Go: Know Your Risks
Leadership Tool for a Learning Organization

Violence in Healthcare Facilities

WHY IS PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES IMPORTANT?

- Violence—including incidents caused by family members, visitors, and coworkers—is common in healthcare, and violence-related injuries to healthcare workers account for almost as many violence-related injuries as those sustained by workers in all other industries combined.¹
- Many healthcare workers consider violence “part of the job,” and so do not report violent events.²
- Violence takes a toll. Long after physical consequences are addressed, healthcare workers report feelings of anger, shock, hurt, frustration, embarrassment, humiliation, and depression.³
- Violence is expensive. In one study, annual employer costs for nurses who sustained workplace violence injuries were $94,156: $78,924 for treatment and $15,232 for indemnity.⁴

DID YOU ASK?

- What do event reports and other measures indicate regarding the risk of violence in the organization?
- Does the organization have a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan?
- Are staff trained to recognize the behavior of individuals who may become violent, and to respond accordingly?
- Does the organization ensure appropriate follow-up to violent events, including communication, postincident support, and investigation?


Need More Information?

As a member of ECRI Institute’s risk and patient safety program, you and your staff can access guidance outlining strategies for prevention of violence in healthcare facilities:
- Guidance: Violence in Healthcare Facilities
- Guidance: Hospital Security
- Guidance: Hospital Relations with Police
- Guidance: Patient Violence

ECRI Institute can help you with all of your patient safety, quality, and risk management projects. E-mail us at hrc@ecri.org.