







Safety First: Streamlining Reporting and Preventing Ambulatory Workplace Violence

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Learning Objectives



- Discuss how to streamline workplace violence event reporting.
- Describe specific tools and management ideas that can be implemented in ambulatory settings to address workplace violence.







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A Comprehensive Ambulatory Care Workplace Violence Program: Success Story

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UCHealth

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UCHealth: University of Colorado Hospital (UCH)

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University of Colorado is the largest academic health center in the Rocky Mountain region

University of Colorado Hospital

- 1,931,055 outpatient visits
- 179,926 ED visits
- 52,072 inpatient and observation admissions
- 31,404 surgeries
- 3,714 babies delivered
- 775 available beds



About UCHealth



- 4 Northern Colorado
- 4 Metro Denver
- 6 Southern Colorado



579 Northern Colorado 989 Metro Denver 852 Southern Colorado



Poudre Valley Hospital
Fort Collins



Medical Center of the Rockies Loveland



Greeley HospitalGreeley



Longs Peak Hospital Longmont



Broomfield HospitalMetro Denver



University of Colorado Hospital Metro Denver



Highlands Ranch Hospital
Metro Denver



Memorial Hospital North Colorado Springs



Grandview HospitalColorado Springs



Memorial Hospital Colorado Springs



Pikes Peak Regional Hospital
Woodland Park



Yampa Valley Medical Center Steamboat Springs



Parkview Medical Center
Pueblo



Parkview Pueblo West Hospital Pueblo

More than

33K employees

119 K surgeries

2.7 Munique patients

8_6M outpatient, urgent care and emergency room visits

16K delivered

affiliated or employed providers

973 new patients per day

inpatient admissions and observation visits

Workplace Violence: Ambulatory Care Differences



- Majority of healthcare occurs in ambulatory care (AC): 96%¹
- AC has different resources and environment to provide care: open doors ²
- Workplace violence (WPV) looks different in AC than inpatient
 - 1/3 of mental health care occurs within primary care ²
 - More verbal events from patients and visitors who are lucid and aware of actions ³
 - Lucidity increases negative impact on staff; more fearful ⁴
 - Expedited discharges to reduce inpatient WPV impacts AC





Ambulatory Workplace Violence Program



- Algorithm
- 7 De-Escalating Phrases
- Warning Phrase \(^1\)
- Discontinue Phrase

Telephone Scripting

Cyber-Incivility

Reporting

- Reactive Expressive
 Curses or Yelling
- Passive Aggressive ~Snide, Personally Attacking
- Orthographs

- Hired LCSW 2.4 FTE
- In-Person Support
- Preventative CG
- Cost Savings
 Reducing Security

 Response

BERT Code Gray

Conduct Committee

- Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Standardized Dismissal Process
- Promote interdepartmental Communication regarding challenging behaviors





Workplace Violence Event Reporting: Why does it have to be so hard?

Jennifer Luer, MSN, CPHQ, CPPS, HeartMath Certified Trainer System Director Employee Safety; SSM Health

Tiffany Schmidt, Application Manager - RMIS; SSM Health



System Overview

\$10.5B not-for-profit Catholic health system



\$470M in community benefit²



23 hospitals



40,000 team members



12 post-acute facilities



13,900+ physicians/providers



18 managed hospitals/affiliate relationships



650+ physician office/outpatient sites



58 counties served by SSM Health at Home



14M+ members across 50 states - Navitus PBM



485,000+
covered lives - Dean Health Plan



229,574 virtual visits in 2023

¹2023 Revenue ²2023 Total



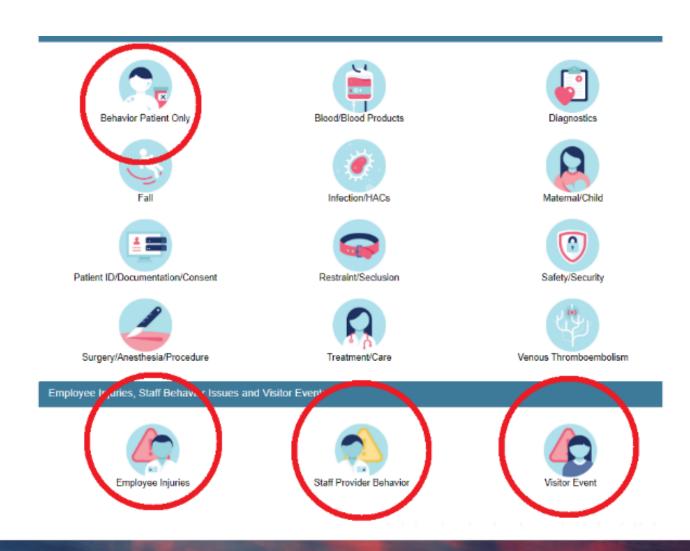
REFLESTION

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Obstacles to Reporting

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- Expectation of multiple event reports
 - Example: Patient violence towards an employee
 - 2 separate event reports
 - 66 questions and 101 clicks
 - Up to five separate reports depending on the event
- Verbal events requiring as much detail as physical injury
- Partial/incomplete duplication of events



Single, Smart Workplace Violence Icon

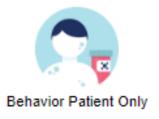
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Workplace Violence Event Reporting - NEW



Patient Event Reporting

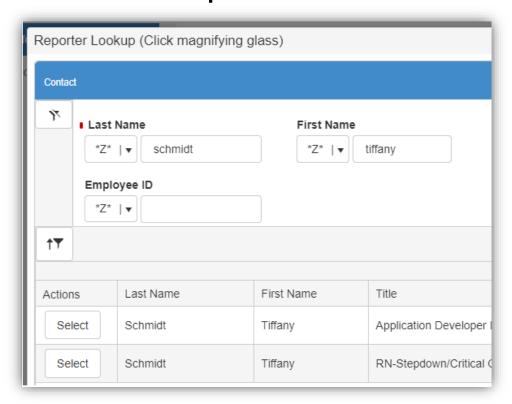


- Simplified questions: Stick to what we know
- Smart pathways: Fewer decisions, better data
- Speedy defaults: Click to change, not to complete
- Faster lookups: Just start typing
- Event reporting link added in EMR

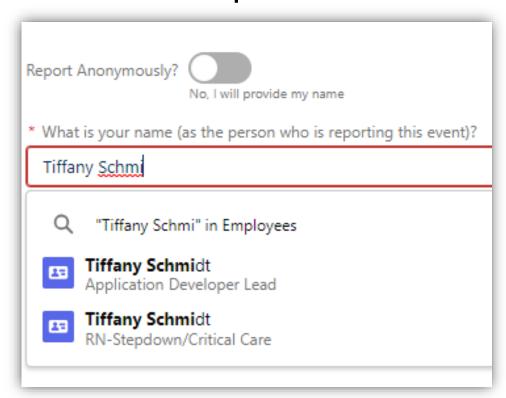
Faster Lookups: Just Start Typing!



Old Lookups: Six Clicks



New Lookups: Two Clicks



Streamlined Verbal Events



25% Reduction in Questions Asked

25%

26% Reduction in Clicks

26%

^{*} Data represents a patient event with verbal aggression against an employee and no physical injury

Outcomes: Same Information, Fewer Clicks



38% Reduction in Questions Asked

38%

35% Reduction in Clicks

35%

^{*} Data represents an event with patient violence towards an employee with an injury with a single witness.

Just in Time Training

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SSM Health is committed to providing a healing and safe environment for all patients, visitors, and employees. Violent, aggressive, or threatening actions and behaviors are prohibited at SSM Health.



Examples of this behavior include:

- Physical assault
- Verbal harassment
- Abusive language
- Threats

Workplace violence includes behavior:

- By a visitor, patient, or staff member
- Directed toward a visitor, patient, or staff member
- Alleged or reported abuse

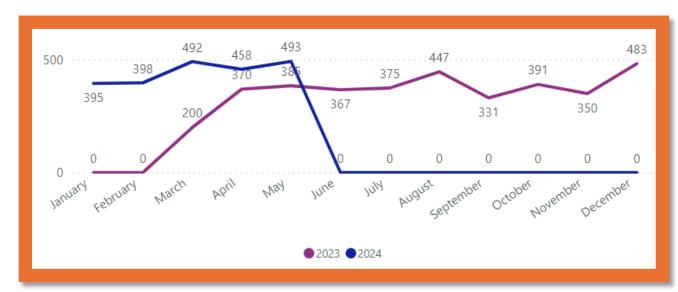
* Does this event include workplace violence of any kind?

- Yes, event includes aggression or assault of any kind including verbal, sexual, or physical
- No aggression or assault of any kind, including verbal

BEFLESTION

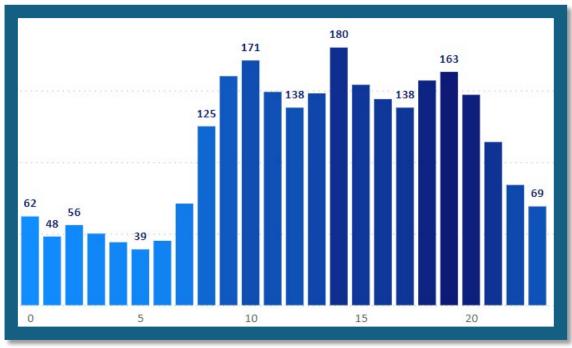
Data Helps Drive the Safety Work

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Workplace Violence Events

2024 Workplace Violence Events by Hour of the Day



Now it's easier to report workplace violence events

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Audience questions

BEFLESTION

Lessons Learned and Key Takeaways



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- Nurses and staff are reluctant to set boundaries
- Nurse and staff recognize a reportable event in others more than themselves
- Patients/callers hang-up more often than nurses or staff disconnect
- Negative impact of verbal events went up the first month and then declined to below pre-survey rates and continue to decline at 90 day
- Preventative Code Grays was an unanticipated finding and became more frequent than actual Code Gray behavioral events



Lessons Learned





- Perfection is an arch enemy of progress
- Engage the relevant partners
- Reflect and be ready to refine
- Allow the system to work for the people





- Do you know how many clicks you are asking for when putting in an event?
- Is your system truly helping streamline the processes?
- Can you see ALL your workplace violence events?
- Don't collect data for the sake of data. Use it wisely.





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