

## **Abstract**

### **Purpose**

As the world's largest healthcare profession and the healthcare provider with the most direct contact with patients, nurses are disproportionately impacted by violence in the hospital. The psychological distress and injuries resulting from workplace violence leads to increased absenteeism, and earlier burnout for the profession. The purpose of this project is to increase awareness of the risk for workplace violence toward nurses and improve earlier identification of patients with risk for aggression through use of a clinical flow sheet in the electronic health record.

### **Methods**

An educational intervention was provided to registered nurses. A pre and post design survey compared the participants' self-reported confidence in assessment skills, perception of awareness of risk for violence, and comfort documenting patient aggression.

### **Results**

A final total of 17 pretest and posttest surveys were analyzed after nurses participated in the intervention. Posttest summary scores were higher than pre-intervention revealing possible increase in awareness of risk for workplace violence, increased confidence in identifying risk for aggression, and intent to use the clinical flow sheet more regularly during patient care shifts. Data was not collected to confirm if the intervention resulted in significant increases in the use of the flow sheet.

### **Conclusions**

The presence of interventions increases awareness among staff. The project findings highlight that the nurses were somewhat confident in their ability to identify risks for patient aggression and violent behavior, but the same group did not feel adequately trained to respond and manage the patient aggression. There are opportunities to develop regular education and unit discussions on workplace violence prevention techniques going forward, engaging nurse leaders in future programs.

*Keywords:* workplace violence, patient aggression, nurse safety, patient safety, unit culture