



NEWS RELEASE

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The Joint Commission Launches Online Resource Center to Prevent Workplace Violence in Health Care

(OAKBROOK TERRACE, Ill. – October 4, 2016) [The Joint Commission](#) today launched an online resource center dedicated to preventing workplace violence in health care settings. The resource center, “[Workplace Violence Prevention Resources](#),” provides a broad range of resources for health care organizations, health care professionals and the general public.

The Joint Commission developed the resource center in response to statistics showing higher rates of workplace violence in health care compared to other settings.¹ Joint Commission accredited health care organizations and advisory committee members—including nurses, physicians, pharmacists, risk managers and other professionals with hands-on experience addressing worker and patient safety—also identified the need for additional resources to help mitigate workplace violence, which includes any verbal, written or physical aggression against health care professionals, patients, visitors or others in a setting where health care is delivered.

“Many of us in health care have witnessed or experienced workplace violence firsthand,” said Ann Scott Blouin, RN, PhD, FACHE, executive vice president of Customer Relations, The Joint Commission. “Workers in health care are five times more likely to be victims of nonfatal assaults or violent acts than the average worker in all other occupations, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. As a result, it is critical that we share key resources with those in the health care community to help them

prepare for and address, as well as hopefully prevent, this type of unfortunate situation from taking place.”

[Workplace Violence Prevention Resources](#) includes easy-to-access policies, procedures, guidelines, research, case studies, white papers, toolkits and other materials focused on workplace violence prevention and preparedness. Topics span violent and criminal event preparedness and prevention, active shooter situations that occur in the health care setting, workplace safety measures, behavioral threat management, emergency operations planning, and incivility and bullying.

The collaborative resources come from The Joint Commission, federal and state agencies, professional associations and health care organizations. Designed as a living library, the resource center encourages contributors and others to share their materials for inclusion on an ongoing basis.

The resource center aligns with The Joint Commission’s mission and vision to continuously improve patient safety and quality of care, as well as its alliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to protect health care workers’ health and safety. For more information, visit the [Workplace Violence Prevention Resources](#) online resource center.

¹ Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). 2015. *Guidelines for preventing workplace violence for healthcare and social service workers*. No. 3148-04R.

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The Joint Commission

Founded in 1951, [The Joint Commission](#) seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission accredits and certifies nearly 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, nonprofit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation’s oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.