

# Behavioral Patient Record Flags (Beh PRFs)

## (also known as Behavioral Electronic Health Record Alerts)

### WVPP Overview

The WVPP promotes a culture of safety and the use of evidence-based, data-driven processes for assessing, mitigating, and managing human behaviors that compromise the safety and effectiveness of VHA health care workplaces.

Promoting patient and employee safety involves reporting events using the Disruptive Behavior Reporting System and using processes for behavioral threat multidisciplinary team review.

### WVPP Consultation

VHA Workplace Violence Prevention Program Consultation Team  
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### U.S. Health Care Workplace Violence

**Health care workers face significant risks of job-related violence**



While under 20% of all workplace injuries happen to health care workers ...



Health care workers suffer 50% of all assaults.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3148.pdf>

### Relevant Legislation, Regulatory Requirements, and Standards

- Public Law 112-154, section 106, "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012"
- 38 Code of Federal Regulation, section 17.107, "VA Response to Disruptive Behavior of Patients"
- Occupational Safety and Health Act, section 5(a)(1) (aka "General Duty Clause")
- The Joint Commission's Environment of Care and Leadership Standards

### For More Information

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAWVPP/SitePages/Home.aspx>  
<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAPMDB/default.aspx>

### Appropriate Use of Beh PRFs

- Beh PRF were developed for the specific purpose of improving safety in providing health care to patients who are identified as **posing an unusual risk for violent behavior**.
- Beh PRF immediately alert VHA personnel to the presence of risk **that must be known in the initial moments of a patient encounter**.
- Beh PRF are communication tools designed to convey treatment plan information. They are not an intervention in and of themselves.

### Content of Beh PRFs

Beh PRF contain two main sections:

- PROBLEM: 1-2 sentences describing the problem determined to pose a safety threat. Examples:**
  - "Patient has a history of concealing firearms on his person while on VHA property."
  - "Patient has a history of violence toward staff, resulting in injury, particularly while intoxicated."
- PLAN: 1-2 sentences describing action to take to promote safety. Examples:**
  - "Patient must check-in with VA Police when on VHA property. Police may search if there is probable cause."
  - "Staff should have a low threshold for notifying VA Police when Patient presents for care under the influence of substances."

### Beh PRFs Must NEVER Be Used To:

- Punish
- Exclude from access to clinically indicated health care services
- Exclude from admission to clinically indicated programs
- Identify administrative or law enforcement needs

### Placing and Removing a Beh PRF

- Approved by the Chief of Staff (COS) or COS's designee the Disruptive Behavior Committee (DBC)
- Requires completion of a comprehensive, individualized behavioral threat assessment using evidence-based data-driven best practice of a Structured Professional Judgment approach
- Reviewed by the DBC for continued relevance at least every 2 years
- Errors in Beh PRF content may be appealed via Privacy Act Review request for medical record amendment

### Report Behavioral Safety Concerns

Report behavioral safety concerns in the [Disruptive Behavior Reporting System \(DBRS\)](#). Any VHA employee may enter a report in the DBRS.

## Workplace Violence Prevention Program

VA is a place for healing.  
Everyone's Safety is Everyone's Responsibility.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs