STATEMENT:

Healthcare Facilities (HCFs) will provide responses to manage targeted violence.

INTENT:

a. Definition: Targeted Violence – a situation where an individual, individuals or group are identified at risk of violence, usually from another specific individual such as in cases involving domestic violence.

b. The three major functions of a threat assessment are; identification of the perpetrator(s), assessment of the risks of violence posed by a given perpetrator at a given time, and management of both the subject and the risks that he or she presents to a given target. The level of threat will determine the scope and timing of the response.

c. The HCF policy should identify responsibility of staff to report a risk of targeted violence as quickly as possible so the threat can be assessed and preventative measures can be initiated.

d. Protocols should be in place to require reporting of threats where personal safety may be at risk.

e. All identified threats of targeted violence should be treated seriously, in accordance with HCF policy and assessed through a process that analyzes the threat and recommends the appropriate level or type of intervention to be initiated.

f. Security should play a lead role in the threat assessment team, related process and design of any safety plan.

g. HCF staff involved in the process of assessing the threat to determine the appropriate level and type of intervention required should receive training for this role.

h. Where warranted by risk in specific circumstances, HCFs should employ preventative measures to protect the potential target. Measures that should be considered include:
   1) Placing a no information/privacy block on patient information system or, if a worker, protecting information related to work location, schedule or personal information
   2) Communicating with security to provide updated information
   3) Information to be shared with workers or other individuals in the area
   4) Involvement of staff or family members for support as necessary
   5) Consideration of moving the person at risk to another care area or another site
   6) Consideration for work and parking space and transportation alternatives
   7) Restriction on visitors or access to the potential target, including lockdown of the area if required
   8) In appropriate circumstances notify law enforcement
   9) Document risk and preventative measures initiated
i. The safety of the individuals, including the potential target, staff, patients, and visitors should be of primary concern at all times.

REFERENCES:


SEE ALSO:

- IAHSS Healthcare Security Industry Guideline 01.09, Violence in Healthcare

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