

Workplace violence may result in physical and/or psychological injuries to the worker.

In addition, it may also have an impact on patients, co-workers, family, and friends.

Caring for a living, together

Across BC, HSA represents more than twelve thousand health care and social services professionals in acute care, long-term care and community health facilities, including child development centres and transition houses.



Health Sciences Association
The union of caring professionals



www.hsabc.org

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What are the impacts
on workers, patients,
and co-workers?

preventing violence in the health care workplace

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Some possible effects of workplace violence

Impact on workers:

- Grief, denial, self-blame
- Depression, anger, disbelief
- Anxiety, shock, apathy
- Dependency, helplessness
- Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder
- Fear of future threats or injury
- Self-doubt
- Powerlessness
- Fear of returning to work
- Decreased job performance
- Changes in relationships with co-workers/family
- Extended time off
- Physical illness
- Sleep pattern disturbances
- Headaches
- Impaired stress management and substance abuse

information courtesy of the workers' compensation board of bc publication
"preventing violence in health care: five steps to an effective program"

Impact on bystanders, other patients/clients

- Shock and disbelief
- Anger, denial, fear for their own safety

Impact on co-workers

- Denial, self-blame
- Blaming of victim, leading to conflict or distrust among co-workers
- Anger, increased stress, fear for their own safety
- Lower workplace morale
- Re-distribution of workload due to the worker's leave as a result of physical and/or psychological injury

Impact on family and friends

- Shock, disbelief
- Denial, grief
- Fear of future threats or injury to the worker
- Loss of family income
- Disruption of activities of daily living
- Loss of participation of the worker in family and social activities
- Stress within the family due to the physical and psychological effects of the incident

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WCB resources

WCB Prevention Information Line

604 276-3100 in the Lower Mainland
1 888 621-SAFE (7233) toll-free in B.C.

WCB Publications

The following WCB publications may be helpful:

- Health Care Industry: Focus Report on Occupational Injury and Disease
- Coping with Critical Incident Stress at Work (pamphlet)
- Gently into the Night: Aggression in Long-Term Care (by Neil Boyd)

These and other publications can be ordered from the WCB:

Phone: 604 / 276.3068

Toll-free: 1 800 / 661.2112, local 3068

Fax: 604 / 279.7406

E-mail: pubvid@wcb.bc.ca

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