

PSYCHIATRY IN PRIMARY CARE: THREAT ASSESSMENT

Management of Violence in the Healthcare Setting

Friday, June 19, 2026

TARGET AUDIENCE:

This conference is designed for primary care physicians and healthcare providers seeking updated knowledge in psychiatry and its subspecialties, with practical guidance on assessing and managing threats and violence in healthcare settings. Attendees will gain insights into risk identification, current clinical guidelines, and strategies for integrating updated practices into daily clinical care.

Primary Care Physicians (DO/MD)

- *Why This Matters to Them*
- Often first point of contact for patients experiencing behavioral crises
- Increasing exposure to disruptive or threatening behavior in outpatient settings
- Limited formal training in violence risk assessment
- Responsible for identifying IPV, trafficking, and stalking in routine visits

Professional Needs

- Practical tools for real-time threat assessment
- Clear differentiation between impulsive vs. predatory violence
- Documentation guidance
- De-escalation strategies appropriate for outpatient clinics
- Legal and ethical considerations

Motivators to Attend

- Risk mitigation and workplace safety
- Increased confidence managing challenging encounters
- CME credit
- Real-world case discussion applicable to daily practice

Nurses (Outpatient, Hospital-Based, Behavioral Health)

Why This Matters to Them

- Highest frontline exposure to aggressive behavior
- Often first to detect escalating agitation
- Key role in documentation and reporting
- Frequently involved in patient triage and crisis response

Professional Needs

- Early warning sign recognition
- De-escalation techniques
- Safety protocols in clinical settings
- Understanding special populations (IPV, trafficking)

- Clear escalation pathways

Motivators to Attend

- Practical, immediately applicable skills
- Personal safety enhancement
- Interdisciplinary understanding of provider roles
- CE credit

Secondary Audiences

- Advanced Practice Providers (NPs, PAs)
- Behavioral Health Physicians
- Social Workers
- Healthcare Administrators focused on risk management

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of the program, participants will be able to:

- **Differentiate** between impulsive and predatory violence and describe how these patterns present in healthcare settings.
- **Apply** foundational principles of threat assessment to evaluate patients who may pose a risk of harm in clinical environments.
- **Identify** behavioral warning signs and clinical risk factors associated with stalking, intimate partner violence, trafficking, and other high-risk situations.
- **Implement** practical strategies for de-escalation, documentation, and referral when managing potentially violent or threatening behaviors.
- **Integrate** interdisciplinary approaches to enhance workplace safety and improve coordinated responses to violence risk within healthcare systems.
- **Incorporate** case-based insights into clinical decision-making to improve early recognition and intervention in situations involving potential violence.

LECTURE OBJECTIVES:

Impulsive Violence in Healthcare | Jason Beaman, DO

1. **Differentiate** impulsive violence from predatory violence in clinical settings.
2. **Identify** clinical, psychiatric, and situational factors associated with impulsive aggression.
3. **Recognize** early behavioral warning signs of escalation during patient encounters.
4. **Apply** practical de-escalation strategies appropriate for outpatient and hospital environments.

Basics of Threat Assessment | Jason Beaman, DO

1. **Describe** the core principles of structured threat assessment.
2. **Identify** key historical, behavioral, and contextual risk factors for targeted violence.

3. **Differentiate** transient threats from substantive threats in healthcare settings.
4. **Incorporate** structured assessment tools into clinical decision-making and documentation practices.

Predatory Violence in Healthcare | Nikki Igo, DO

1. **Distinguish** characteristics of predatory violence from affective or impulsive aggression.
2. **Recognize** behavioral patterns associated with planned or targeted violence.
3. **Assess** risk indicators that warrant escalation, consultation, or security involvement.
4. **Implement** coordinated response strategies when predatory risk factors are identified.

Stalking | Reagan Gill, DO

1. **Define** stalking behaviors and distinguish them from normative patient contact.
2. **Identify** psychological and behavioral risk factors associated with stalking in healthcare settings.
3. **Evaluate** documentation and reporting considerations in cases involving stalking behaviors.
4. **Develop** safety planning strategies for providers and staff when stalking risk is identified.

Special Populations: Trafficking & Intimate Partner Violence | Chelsea Cody, PhD

1. **Recognize** clinical indicators of human trafficking and intimate partner violence.
2. **Apply** trauma-informed approaches when screening and interviewing at-risk patients.
3. **Identify** appropriate referral pathways and community resources.
4. **Integrate** safety-focused documentation and reporting practices into routine care.

Case Studies & Panel Discussion | All Faculty

1. **Analyze** complex clinical scenarios involving potential violence risk.
2. **Formulate** appropriate assessment and intervention strategies using interdisciplinary input.
3. **Evaluate** decision-making processes related to documentation, consultation, and safety planning.
4. **Integrate** lessons learned into their own clinical practice to enhance workplace safety and patient care.

ABSTRACTS:

Impulsive Violence in Healthcare | Jason Beaman, DO

Workplace violence in healthcare settings remains a significant and growing concern, with impulsive aggression representing a common and often unpredictable form of patient-related risk. This presentation will provide a clinically grounded overview of impulsive violence, with emphasis on distinguishing it from predatory violence in medical environments. Participants will explore key psychiatric, clinical, and situational factors that contribute to impulsive aggression, including underlying mental health conditions, environmental stressors, and communication breakdowns.

The session will also focus on the identification of early behavioral warning signs that may indicate escalating agitation during patient encounters. Through case-based discussion and practical examples, attendees will gain insight into recognizing these cues in both outpatient and inpatient settings. Evidence-informed de-escalation strategies will be presented, equipping healthcare professionals with tools to safely and effectively manage potentially volatile situations while maintaining therapeutic rapport.

This educational activity is designed to enhance participant competence in recognizing, assessing, and responding to impulsive violence, ultimately promoting safer healthcare environments for both patients and providers.

Basics of Threat Assessment | Jason Beaman, DO

Healthcare professionals are increasingly called upon to assess and manage potential threats of violence in clinical settings. This presentation introduces the foundational principles of structured threat assessment, providing participants with a practical framework for evaluating and responding to concerning behaviors. Emphasis will be placed on distinguishing between transient and substantive threats, a critical component in determining the level of risk and appropriate intervention.

Participants will examine key historical, behavioral, and contextual risk factors associated with targeted violence, including patterns of escalation, expressed intent, and environmental influences. Through case-based examples, the session will highlight how these factors can inform risk formulation and guide clinical judgment.

The presentation will also explore the integration of structured threat assessment tools into routine clinical workflows, with attention to documentation practices that support continuity of care, risk management, and interdisciplinary communication. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to enhance their ability to identify, assess, and manage potential threats, contributing to safer healthcare environments for patients and staff.

Predatory Violence in Healthcare | Nikki Igo, DO

While impulsive aggression is more commonly encountered in healthcare settings, predatory violence – characterized by planned, purposeful, and goal-directed behavior proposes a distinct and potentially high-consequence risk. This presentation will examine the defining features of predatory violence and differentiate it from affective or impulsive aggression, emphasizing the importance of early recognition in clinical environments.

Participants will explore behavioral patterns and warning signs associated with targeted or premeditated acts of violence, including fixation, planning behaviors, and leakage of intent. The session will highlight key risk indicators that may warrant escalation, interdisciplinary consultation, or involvement of security and administrative resources. Through case-based discussion, attendees will gain insight into how these factors manifest across healthcare settings.

In addition, this presentation will outline coordinated response strategies when predatory risk factors are identified, including communication protocols, documentation considerations, and team-based interventions. The goal of this session is to enhance clinician preparedness in identifying and managing higher-risk scenarios, ultimately supporting safer environments for patients, staff, and the broader healthcare system.

Stalking | Reagan Gill, DO

Stalking behaviors present a unique and often underrecognized threat within healthcare settings, blurring the line between appropriate patient contact and patterns of persistent, unwanted attention. This presentation will define stalking in the clinical context and provide clear distinctions between normative patient communication and behaviors that signal potential risk.

Participants will examine the psychological and behavioral factors associated with stalking, including fixation, boundary violations, and escalation patterns that may place healthcare providers and staff at risk. The session will emphasize the importance of early recognition and intervention, particularly in environments where ongoing patient-provider interactions are expected.

Key considerations for documentation and reporting will be reviewed, with guidance on maintaining accurate, objective records that support risk management and institutional response. Additionally, the presentation will outline practical safety planning strategies for individuals and teams, including boundary setting, communication protocols, and coordination with security or administrative personnel when necessary.

This session is designed to enhance clinician awareness and preparedness in addressing stalking behaviors, contributing to safer workplace environments and more effective management of complex interpersonal risk scenarios.

Special Populations: Trafficking & Intimate Partner Violence | Chelsea Cody, PhD

Human trafficking and intimate partner violence (IPV) are critical public health issues that frequently intersect with healthcare settings, often presenting with subtle or easily overlooked indicators. This presentation will equip healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize clinical signs of trafficking and IPV, including physical, behavioral, and psychosocial red flags that may emerge during patient encounters.

Participants will learn how to apply trauma-informed approaches when screening and interviewing at-risk individuals, with emphasis on building trust, minimizing re-traumatization, and promoting patient autonomy. The session will also address the importance of culturally sensitive and patient-centered communication strategies in complex and high-risk situations.

In addition, attendees will explore appropriate referral pathways and community-based resources to support affected individuals, as well as best practices for safety-focused documentation and reporting. Guidance will include maintaining confidentiality, complying with legal and ethical obligations, and facilitating coordinated care.

This educational activity is designed to enhance clinician competence in identifying and responding to trafficking and IPV, supporting improved patient outcomes and safer healthcare environments.