

What is changing?

Safety hazards pose risks to staff or patients, or threaten our ability to provide patients with optimal care. They have the **potential** to be a source of harm or have an adverse effect on a person or persons, or to cause damage to property or the environment.

New **safety hazard** classification options and a revised reporter form are being launched to better support identification and management of these hazards before they cause problems for patients or staff. The new report form has a number of features that will simplify reporting and improve data accuracy and utility.

A new question will allow the flagging of hazards discovered during **simulations, mock codes, or other training exercises**. A question asking reporters if they think the hazard is **likely to cause severe harm if not addressed** has also been added to help handlers triage reports and take quick action on those that pose the greatest risk.

The improved classification options will offer more meaningful, detailed information to support leaders in making improvements before anyone is adversely affected. Using the new set-up, Central Office will review and reclassify existing safety hazards data to enable creation of more comprehensive and accurate aggregate hazard reports.

Why have these changes been made?

Quality assurance review of BCPSLS data revealed that requirements for hazard reporting were unclear, resulting in reporters incorrectly using the Hazard form to report patient safety events and near misses and the Patient Safety Event form to report hazards. More details about hazards were also needed.

To determine the best way forward, BCPSLS engaged two Douglas College Health Information Management students to review hazard reports and explore an expanded hazard taxonomy during their five-week practicum at Central Office last spring. The newly revised form and fields build on the work the students began – to capture and accurately classify the types of hazards typically reported – while still respecting the overall World Health Organization data structure used by BCPSLS.

What do I need to know?

Reporters should use the Safety Hazard form to report situations that have the potential to cause harm, but do not involve specific patients and have not yet caused any harm to anyone. No patient information is needed to report a hazard. Events that involve patients should be reported as patient safety events using the appropriate safety event report form. Patient safety events can be near misses (something that almost reached a patient, like a wrong medication, but was caught before it got there), no harm events (where something happened to a patient, like administration of a wrong medication, but no identifiable harm was caused) or harmful events, where a patient suffered identifiable physical, mental or emotional harm.

Handlers should continue to review and follow-up on hazards as usual. Hazard classification submitted by the reporter should always be reviewed for accuracy. If determined to be a patient safety event because it involved a specific patient or caused harm, the event type should be changed to patient safety event, any required fields should be completed, and the usual steps should be taken to follow-up.

Reporters and Handlers are reminded that staff injury or exposure (e.g. needle stick) should be reported to the Workplace Health Call Centre at 1-866-922-9464. Do NOT report staff injuries in BCPSLS.

Where can I find more information?

Please contact your health authority BCPSLS Coordinator.