



What is changing?

On **February 24th 2016**, a new specialized form will be available to all Health Authorities to report unsafe behavior by a patient, client or resident, including aggression (towards a healthcare worker, towards another patient, client or resident, towards a visitor or other person, or towards an object or property), absconding or wandering, possession of contraband, suicidality, patient victimization, or other disruptive behavior.

BC PSLs Central Office worked with representatives from **BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services** and other experts from the mental health sector across the province to develop the new specialized report form, which has its own logo so it's easy to identify on the BC PSLs landing page and includes new questions and options for describing these events.

Why is this change happening?

Every day, healthcare providers face challenges as they care for patients who exhibit behaviours that create unsafe situations for themselves and others. These situations occur in all locations across the continuum of care. Acts of aggression can affect everyone in a care setting, and it is important to identify where these problems are most commonly happening and the circumstances that surround them so that we can learn more about how to prevent them, how to handle them effectively, and how to mitigate harm, improving safety for all. Other unsafe behaviours, such as self-harming actions, suicidality, and absconding, affect the safety of patients themselves and are most often seen in the mental health context. The new report form and questions aim to promote the reporting and collection of relevant information about these events so we can enable shared learning and improvement across the province.

What else do I need to know?

BC PSLs Reporters will not need to determine the Degree of Harm for events reported with the new form. Reporters will *only* be asked “*Was the patient harmed?*” If the answer is No, a Degree of Harm 1- No harm will be automatically assigned when the report is submitted. If the answer is Yes, another question will appear, “*Was this severe harm (such as loss of limb or function) or death?*” If the event resulted in severe harm, notification will be sent to the appropriate manager/leader. **BC PSLs Handlers** will assign a Degree of Harm to these events as part of their investigation and follow-up.

<p>★ Was the patient harmed? Harm can be physical, mental or emotional.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unknown</p>
<p>★ Was this severe harm (such as loss of limb or function) or death?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Unknown</p>

Where can I find more information?

If you have questions, please contact the BC PSLs Coordinator at your Health Authority.

Resources: [Patient Safety in Mental Health](#), BC Mental Health & Addiction Services