

# HOSPITAL SAFE ZONES



Workplace violence is recognized as a major safety issue in hospitals and health systems across the country. Both physical and verbal abuse are significant contributors to workplace stress and psychological trauma that can negatively impact employee health and quality of life. South Carolina's hospitals are committed to reducing the threat of workplace violence by equipping facilities with information to help communicate the importance of protecting our employees.

## **WE CARE ABOUT YOUR SAFETY.**

- Our mission is to provide a safe, violence-free workplace by ensuring an equal commitment to the safety and health of all our employees.
- There will be zero tolerance for violence of any nature against our employees and we will address incidents seriously and swiftly.
- Potential sources of violence in healthcare facilities includes patients, visitors, intruders, and even coworkers.

## **IT'S NOT PART OF THE JOB.**

- Your safety is a top priority and your duty to care shouldn't jeopardize your personal security.
- Your clinical obligation to "DO NO HARM" should extend beyond the patient to your fellow employees and yourself.
- Research indicates that workplace violence in healthcare is vastly underreported because many employees believe that it's part of the job, and that is not the case.

## **YOU REPORT. WE SUPPORT.**

- Your participation in identifying and reporting incidents of violence is critical to the overall safety of our organization. If they do it to you, they will do it to someone else.
- Employees are encouraged to report all incidents of physical or verbal abuse whether it is committed by a patient, visitor, or coworker. This includes intentional and unintentional acts.
- Depending on the source and severity of the incident, we will take every action available to seek justice and protect you from harm or retaliation.

## **WE'RE HERE TO HELP.**

- In this area the hospital would list resources they offer to combat workplace violence and who to contact for resources or in the event an incident occurs they want to report. Some facilities set up a hotline dedicated to reporting incidents.
- Provide info on any committees dedicated to safety and health.
- Provide info on any programs offered for violence prevention, self-defense, de-escalation training or counseling.
- Provide info on security personnel and policies.