



Current Status: *Active*

PolicyStat ID: 5129423



Origination: 09/2017
Effective: 07/2018
Last Approved: 07/2018
Last Revised: 07/2018
Next Review: 07/2021
Owner: *Kevin Phillips: Dir Hospital Police-U*
Policy Area: *Patient Care*
Policy Tag Groups:
Applicability: *UNC Medical Center*

Wound Reporting

Description:

Requirements for reporting certain wounds of patients presenting to the University of North Carolina Health Care System ("UNCHCS")

Rationale

North Carolina law requires that certain cases of wounds, injuries or illnesses be reported by UNCHCS as soon as practicable before, during or after completion of treatment. It is the policy of UNCHCS to make such reports as required, and this policy describes the types of wounds, injuries or illnesses required to be reported and the UNCHCS procedure for making such reports.

I. Policy

A. Types of Wounds, Injuries or Illnesses Requiring Reporting

The following cases of wounds, injuries or illnesses are required to be reported to law enforcement:

1. Bullet wound
2. Gunshot wound
3. Powder burn
4. Other injury arising from or caused by, or appearing to arise from or be caused by, the discharge of a gun or firearm
5. Illness apparently caused by poisoning
6. Wound or injury caused, or apparently caused, by a knife or sharp or pointed instrument, if it appears to the physician that a criminal act was involved
7. Wound, injury or illness in which there is grave bodily harm or grave illness, if it appears to the treating physician that the wound, injury or illness resulted from a criminal act of violence

B. Procedure for Reporting

1. **Treating Physician/Team**

Anyone treating a patient with one of the wounds, injuries or illnesses listed above will, as soon as it becomes practical (before, during or after completion of treatment), notify the UNC Hospitals Police supervisor on duty and provide the following information about the patient:

- a. Name
- b. Age
- c. Sex
- d. Race
- e. Residence or present location
- f. Character and extent of the injuries

2. UNC Hospitals Police

UNC Hospitals Police will report the information listed in section B.(1) (above) about the patient to the appropriate police department.

3. Disclosing Patient Information

Federal and state law place strict restrictions on the disclosure of protected health information ("PHI"). For patients having a wound, injury, or illness that requires a report to law enforcement, the law allows the provision of certain limited information, as described in this policy. If outside law enforcement representatives, including but not limited to the State Bureau of Investigation, directly contact caregivers, the caregivers should contact UNC Hospitals Police and/or the Legal Department prior to releasing information or giving access to any individual.

(N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-21.20; 45 CFR § 164.512(f)(1)(i))

Attachments:

No Attachments

Approval Signatures

| Step Description | Approver | Date |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| | Betty George: Chief Legal Counsel | 07/2018 |
| | Kevin Phillips: Dir Hospital Police-U | 07/2018 |

Applicability

UNC Medical Center