

**ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY**

**Resolution 12.2022-29  
(A-23)**

Introduced by: Megan Finneran, DO, MS, ISMS Member  
Subject: Metal Detectors to Promote Safety Within Hospitals  
Referred to: Council on Medical Service

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1           Whereas, the Illinois State Medical Society has no policy regarding metal  
2 detectors in hospitals; and

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4           Whereas, gun violence in healthcare settings poses a threat to hospital staff and  
5 patients alike; and

6  
7           Whereas, currently in the state of Illinois, there are no protective measures in  
8 place to prevent gun violence in hospitals and other healthcare settings; and

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10          Whereas, the emergency department is the most common site for shootings on  
11 hospital grounds<sup>1</sup>; and

12  
13          Whereas, providers who prescribe pain medication including chronic pain care  
14 providers, surgeons after a procedure, and primary care providers are also particularly  
15 vulnerable<sup>2</sup>; and

16  
17          Whereas, gun violence in a healthcare setting occurs for a variety of reasons,  
18 including patient dissatisfaction with quality of service, personal grudge, perceived staff  
19 professionalism, and wait times<sup>3</sup>; and

20  
21          Whereas, healthcare providers are significantly affected by incidents of violence  
22 in the workplace including fear at work, reduced job satisfaction, and taking time off  
23 from work<sup>4</sup>; and

24  
25          Whereas, patients have reported they would feel safer in the emergency  
26 department if a metal detector was in use<sup>5</sup>; and

27  
28          Whereas, metal detectors are an effective way to retrieve firearms, knives,  
29 chemical sprays, and other weapons<sup>6</sup>; therefore, be it

30           RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Medical Society urge the appropriate  
31 stakeholders, such as hospitals and law enforcement, to establish guidelines for the  
32 implementation of metal detectors at the main entrance and the emergency room  
33 department of all healthcare facilities in the state of Illinois.

**Resources:**

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2. David K, Anuj D, Nabil S. Violence toward chronic pain care providers: A national survey. *Pain Med.* 2015 Oct;16(10):1882-96. doi: 10.1111/pme.12794. Epub 2015 Jun 2. PMID: 26037534.
3. Shafran-Tikva S, Chinitz D, Stern Z, Feder-Bubis P. Violence against physicians and nurses in a hospital: How does it happen? A mixed-methods study. *Isr J Health Policy Res.* 2017 Oct 31;6(1):59. doi: 10.1186/s13584-017-0183-y. PMID: 29089061; PMCID: PMC5664846.
4. Fernandes CM, Bouthillette F, Raboud JM, Bullock L, Moore CF, Christenson JM, Grafstein E, Rae S, Ouellet L, Gillrie C, Way M. Violence in the emergency department: a survey of health care workers. *CMAJ.* 1999 Nov 16;161(10):1245-8. PMID: 10584084; PMCID: PMC1230785.
5. McNamara R, Yu DK, Kelly JJ. Public perception of safety and metal detectors in an urban emergency department. *Am J Emerg Med.* 1997 Jan;15(1):40-2. doi: 10.1016/s0735-6757(97)90045-0. PMID: 9002567.
6. Malka ST, Chisholm R, Doehring M, Chisholm C. Weapons Retrieved After the Implementation of Emergency Department Metal Detection. *J Emerg Med.* 2015 Sep;49(3):355-8. doi: 10.1016/j.jemermed.2015.04.020. Epub 2015 Jul 4. PMID: 26153030.

**Fiscal Note:**

None

**Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:**

ISMS condemns the daily firearm violence throughout our state and nation, and supports funding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) research on firearm safety or gun violence prevention. (HOD 2016)