

Weapons Detection in the Healthcare Sector

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Education

MBA Southern New Hampshire University
BS Criminal Justice & Criminology
Arizona State University
Homeland Security Certification
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Recognition

2019 Campus Safety Magazine Director of the Year
2019 US OSPA Outstanding Security Team
2020 IAHS Lindberg Bell Award
2020 Security Magazine Most Influential





Workplace Violence Impact in Healthcare

5-12X

More likely than any other industry
in US

92%

Healthcare workers have experienced
or regularly witness violence

70%

Behavioral health workers will be
assaulted this year

\$6.6M

Hospital Average Nurse turnover cost

Safety, flexibility, and work environment are top priorities for surveyed nurses

For nurses likely to leave,¹ factors affecting surveyed nurses' decisions about whether or not to stay in current position, % of respondents ranking factor as important (n = 228)

McKinsey
& Company



Strategic Drivers for Weapons Detection



Staff Safety & Perception: Making front-line workers feel secure in their environment.



Violence & Crime Reduction: Actively deterring weapons in clinical spaces.



Active Shooter Prevention: Mitigating catastrophic mass-trigger events (Data: 15 active shooter incidents occurred in healthcare settings between 2000-2019).



Regulatory Compliance: Meeting strict AB2975 standards.



Risk Assessment Indication: Deploying technology based on data-driven facility threats.

Hospital's Risk Assessment for Weapons/Magnetometers Should Include:

Internal Hospital Dynamics

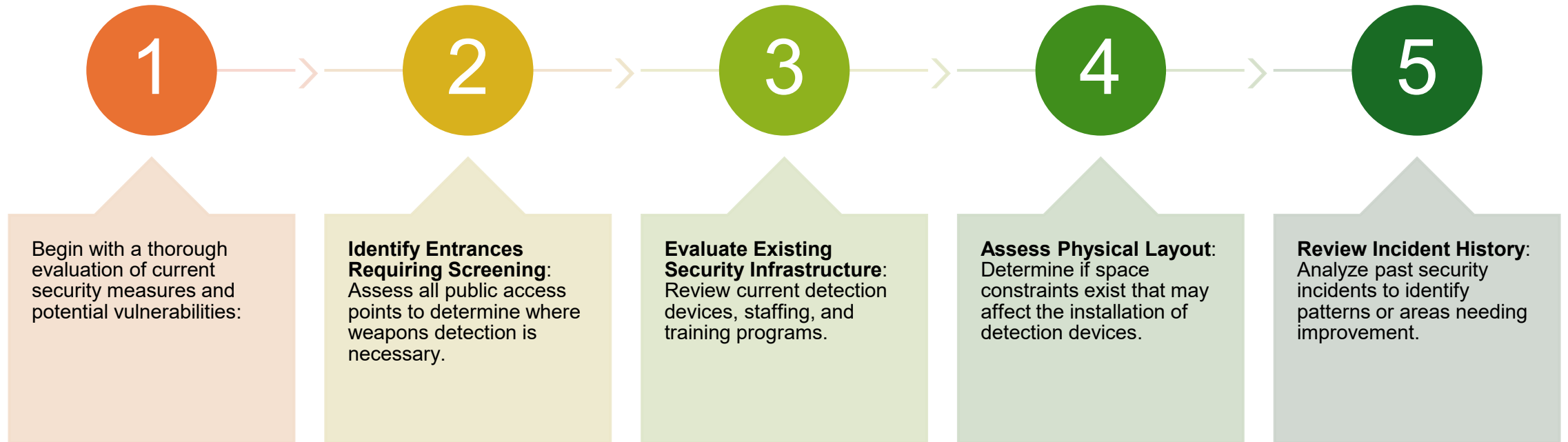
- Behavioral and Intoxicated patients
- Stress & Anxiety (Billing, death, bad outcomes)
- Domestic Violence spillover
- Patient victims of violence (e.g., Gunshot wounds)
- Trauma Center status
- Internal floor plans and clinical processes

External Environmental Factors

- Hospital location and local demographics
- Civil disturbance risks
- Concentric crime rates (within a 1-5 mile radius)
- Prevalence of weapons in the local community
- Specific types of localized crime



Conducting a Comprehensive Risk Assessment



Engaging Stakeholders



• Key Stakeholders:



- Facilities and engineering



- Security and compliance teams
(Legal, Risk, Quality)



- Hospital leadership, including
Human Resources



• Will your hospital require employees to go through weapons detections? If so, will start times be changed, or will discipline for tardiness and violations need to be altered? A conversation with HR can answer some of these questions.



Employee exemption: A provision permitting a hospital to exclude current hospital employees or health care providers who enter a hospital wearing an identification badge bearing their name and title from undergoing weapons detection screening

Weapon Detection Technology: Is it effective and how does it work

All advanced weapons detection technologies (excluding video management) emit or capture signals across different frequency ranges to develop operator images or real-time warnings.

Earth's magnetic
field distortions

Ultrasound

Millimeter
wave

Infrared

Induced
magnetic fields

Electromagnetic
resonances

Terahertz

X-rays



Deploying the Right Detection Modality



Handheld Scanners

Targeted, manual
secondary screening.

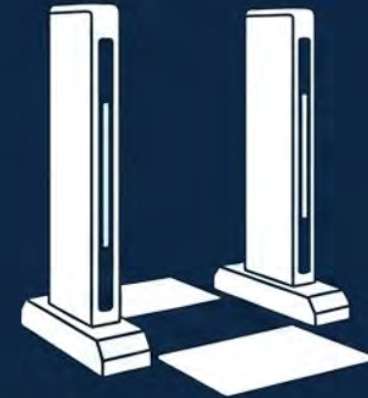
Highly flexible but requires
close physical proximity.



Traditional Portals

Walk-through magnetometers.

Highly visible choke-point
control, but prone to
bottlenecks.



Advanced Imaging & Touchless

High-throughput, real-time
millimeter-wave systems.

Frictionless entry utilizing
advanced algorithmic
screening.

Operational Considerations

- Policy and Procedure
- Prohibited Items
- Refusal to be searched and EMTALA implications
- Delay in Care
- What to do with found weapons
- Testing and calibration





Devices must be operated by dedicated, trained security personnel—NOT clinical healthcare providers.

BSIS Compliance

Personnel must be trained through Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS) standards.

The 8-Hour Requirement

A minimum of 8 hours of targeted training is mandatory.



Operation of specific detection devices



Hospital policies for weapon detection response



De-escalation techniques for clinical environments



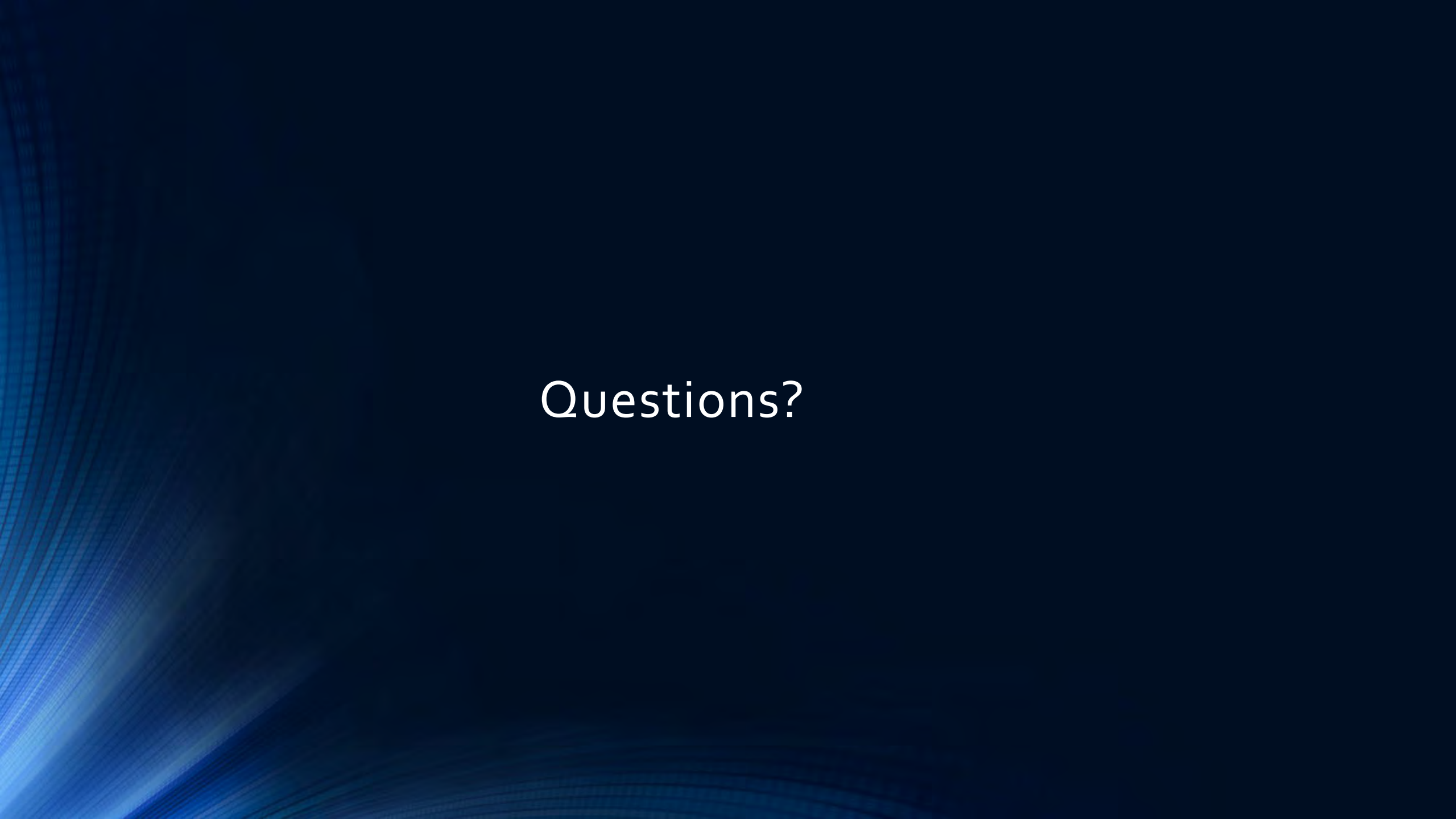
Implicit bias awareness and mitigation

Recommendations

A Holistic Security Ecosystem



Final Recommendation: Implement advanced, highly accurate, real-time detection technologies as the foundation of a comprehensive threat mitigation strategy to prevent modern mass-trigger events without disrupting patient care.

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Questions?