

Online-only content for “Original Research: Nurses’ Knowledge and Comfort with Assessing Inpatients’ Firearm Access and Providing Education on Safe Gun Storage” by Sheppard and colleagues in the *American Journal of Nursing*, September 2020, p. 26-35.

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## Survey Instrument

### Demographics

1. How old are you?
  - a. 20–30 years
  - b. 31–40 years
  - c. 41–50 years
  - d. 51–60 years
  - e. 61 years or older
2. What is your gender?
  - a. Female
  - b. Male
  - c. Other
3. What is your highest level of completed education?
  - a. Diploma
  - b. Associate’s degree
  - c. Bachelor’s degree
  - d. Master’s degree
  - e. Doctoral degree
4. How many years have you been a nurse?
5. How many years have you worked at MGH?

### Firearm Knowledge and Education

Please answer **YES** or **NO** to the following three questions:

6. Are you familiar with Massachusetts state law on safe gun storage?
7. Have you ever participated in a class or training on firearm safety or safe gun storage?
8. Have you ever participated in a class or training on how to educate others on firearm safety or safe gun storage?

### Current Practice

Please answer **YES** or **NO** to the following question:

9. Do you currently ask patients about gun accessibility or ownership?
10. If yes, please describe situations in which you would ask patients about gun accessibility.

### Nursing Comfort with Assessing Firearm Safety and Storage

Please answer the following three questions using a scale of 1–4:

- 1 = uncomfortable
- 2 = somewhat uncomfortable
- 3 = somewhat comfortable
- 4 = comfortable

11. How comfortable do you feel asking a patient about gun ownership or accessibility?

12. How comfortable do you feel asking a patient about gun storage?

13. How comfortable do you feel providing education on safe gun storage to a patient?

14. Please describe what you think are **BARRIERS** to asking patients about firearm ownership and safe gun storage. Please check all that apply and write in "other" barriers as needed.

- a. Lack of knowledge about firearm safety and safe gun storage
- b. I feel unsafe
- c. I don't know what to do with the information I collect
- d. I don't have time
- e. I don't have educational information to share with patients on this topic
- f. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Please describe what you think are **FACILITATORS** to asking patients about firearm ownership and safe gun storage. Please check all that apply and write in "other" facilitators as needed.

- a. Receiving education about firearm safety and safe gun storage
- b. Having a policy in place to document this information once it is obtained from the patient
- c. Having a safety protocol in place in case the situation becomes uncomfortable
- d. Having educational information I can hand to the patient for them to read themselves
- e. Having educational information I can hand to the patient and review with the patient
- f. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Do you think that nurses:

Please choose **one** of the following options:

- a. **Should** ask patients about gun ownership as part of nursing assessment questionnaires, and provide education on safe gun storage only to those patients **who own** or **who have access to** a gun?

**OR**

- b. **Should NOT** ask patients about gun ownership, and **INSTEAD** provide education on safe gun storage to **ALL** patients?

Please answer **YES** or **NO** to the following question:

17. Would a class on firearms safety and safe gun storage help you feel more comfortable asking patients about and providing education on firearm safety and safe gun storage?

18. What type of learning strategy would be most helpful to you? Select all that apply:

- a. A one-hour class involving security and other disciplines, including nursing
- b. A half-day training course involving security and other disciplines, including nursing
- c. A HealthStream training module
- d. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Patient Education on Safe Gun Storage**

Please answer **YES** or **NO** to the following two questions:

19. If you had safe gun storage educational information for patients, would you feel comfortable providing this information to patients?

20. Are you familiar with the pamphlet on firearm ownership and safe gun storage that was recently developed by the MGH Gun Violence Prevention Coalition?

21. What type of patient learning strategy do you think would be most effective? Please select all that apply or write in other learning strategies if needed.

- a. A pamphlet on firearm safety and safe gun storage for patients and families
- b. A brief video for patients to watch on firearm safety and safe gun storage
- c. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

22. When do you think is the best time for nurses to provide education/educational materials on safe gun storage to patients?

- a. At admission
- b. During hospitalization
- c. At discharge

**Optional Further Participation**

Please answer **YES** or **NO** to the following question:

Would you be interested in participating in an interview with a study investigator, so we can learn more about how to meet the educational needs of nurses and patients on firearm accessibility and safe gun storage? The interview will take about 15–20 minutes and participants will be eligible to receive a second gift card.

If you answered **YES**, please e-mail Kim Sheppard at [ksmithsheppard@partners.org](mailto:ksmithsheppard@partners.org).

MGH = Massachusetts General Hospital.