What should I do when I see the “Clinical Violence Alert Symbol”?  
• Staff must consult with the patient’s care team before interacting with the patient or family. The care team can provide you with the basic precautions and information you may need to stay safe.

How do I determine when use of the “Clinical Violence Alert Symbol” is needed?  
• The symbol may be placed for different reasons: history of violence, intoxication, medication affects, mental health issues, and others.
• Notify your manager and use the risk assessment criteria to help evaluate the need for an alert symbol based on the situation. Be sure to involve another workforce member, for example your manager, charge nurse, AOD, and/or Public Safety as no individual workforce member should make the decision independently.

How do I order the symbols?  
• If the Alert Symbol is appropriate, a supply is typically kept on each unit. Additional symbols can be ordered from Public Safety by sending an e-mail to pubsafe@ohsu.edu.

Where are the symbols placed?  
• Placement outside of the room keeps staff (e.g.: housekeepers, food and nutrition staff, transportation) from entering the patient room unprepared and unaware of a potentially harmful situation.
• When a chart is opened in Epic, the first screen (Patient Highlights) that comes up will have “ALERT” in red text and all caps. The instructions will include language to the effect that safety precautions need to be taken and that the Clinical Violence Alert Symbol should be in place.
• If there is a physical chart, placement on the chart is necessary in case the patient is transferred to another care unit or service. The chart with the alert symbol will alert those employees who may be doing a procedure or treatment but who will not be housing the patient (e.g.: dialysis unit, surgery, or diagnostic imaging areas).

Where can I get more information?  
• Refer to the Clinical Violence Alerts Procedure (HR-EC-114-PRO) or call the Public Safety Community Safety Coordinator or on-duty supervisor at (503) 494-7744. Find the Clinical Violence Risk Assessment tool at https://ohsu.ellucid.com/documents/view/1560.

The Joint Commission - Environment of Care Standards guide OHSU in this material. The Environment of Care Committee offers this tool to help remind employees of safety polices and best practices. Please post or share this information with staff. May 2014