**GUNSHOT WOUNDS**

**Must a gunshot wound be reported?**

Yes. Nonfatal gunshot wounds are notifiable conditions which must be reported monthly to the state Department of Health by health care facilities. [[1]](#footnote-1) See **NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS**; and **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

**What must be included in a report to the Department of Health regarding bullet wounds, gunshot wounds or stab wounds?**

The report required must include the following information, if known:[[2]](#footnote-2)

* The patient’s name, address including zip code, telephone number, date of birth, and sex.
* Diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of disease or condition.
* Pertinent laboratory data (if available).
* Name of the principal health care provider.
* Telephone number of the principal health care provider
* Address of the principal health care provider.
* Name and telephone number of the person providing the report.
* Any other information the Department of Health may require on forms generated by the department.

**Are there mandatory reporting requirements for hospitals regarding gunshot wounds?**

Yes. Hospitals are required to report to law enforcement authorities when the hospital provides treatment for a gunshot or stab wound. This should be done as soon as possible, taking into consideration the patient’s emergency care needs. [[3]](#footnote-3) The report required must include the following information, if known:[[4]](#footnote-4)

* The name, residence, sex, and age of the patient.
* Whether the patient has received a bullet wound, gunshot wound, or stab wound.
* The name of the health care provider providing treatment for the bullet wound, gunshot wound, or stab wound.

**Are there any specific requirements if the patient states that her/his injury is the result of domestic violence?**

Yes. A law enacted in the 2013 legislative session imposes a new requirement on hospitals if a patient states that her/his injury is the result of domestic violence.[[5]](#footnote-5) In that situation hospital must follow its established processes to inform the patient of resources which may be helpful to assure the safety of the patient and her/his family.

1. RCW 70.02.050(2)(c); WAC 246-101-301. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. WAC 246-101-315. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. RCW 70.41.440(1). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. RCW 70.41.440(2). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. RCW 70.41.440(8). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)