



Prescribing the Evolv Express® System and Evolv Insights® for Healthcare Weapons Screening

7 Ways to Use Weapons Screening Data from Evolv Insights® to Improve Patient, Staff, and Visitor Safety

Violence and Safety in Healthcare Facilities a Problem

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, healthcare workers are five times more likely to experience a violent assault in the workplace compared to works in all other industries.¹ Unfortunately, the situation seems to be getting worse, with the National Nurses United, the nation's largest union of registered nurses, finding that almost half their members reported an increase in workplace violence in 2021—a more than double the percentage from the previous year.²

Failings of Metal Detectors in Healthcare Facilities

In response, healthcare facilities are taking steps to protect their staff, patients, and visitors by instituting additional security screening practices and systems. For example, a study published in the *Public Health in Practice* last year found that use of a metal detector for patient entrances at healthcare facilities increased the likelihood of weapons detection by more than five times compared to facilities not using metal detectors.³

But metal detectors—both walkthrough and hand-held wands—come with significant drawbacks. For incoming patients, they are invasive and can increase anxiety and stress further. Hand wands, for example, only work if they are held about one inch off the body of the person. On the same note, concerns about physical contact

resulting from security-line queues, bag checks, and hand-held wand checks are much greater today due to COVID-19.⁴ Physical interactions with security staff and potential exposure to patients, visitors, families, and healthcare staff to infectious diseases like COVID-19 is a focus for many healthcare facilities. However, physical contact is a problem with traditional weapons screening methods, which also run counter to the commitment of healthcare organizations to respect patient autonomy.

In addition to the above, both walkthrough and hand-held metal detectors generate a lot of false positives and the associated secondary checks are problematic, especially for incoming patients with serious health issues. And when there is a surge in incoming patients, staff, and visitors, metal detectors cannot scale to handle the increased volume.

¹ "Fact Sheet: Workplace Violence in Healthcare, 2018 | April 2020," U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed August 20, 2022.
² "National nurse survey reveals significant increases in unsafe staffing, workplace violence, and moral distress," National Nurses United, April 14, 2022.
³ James D. Blando, et al., "Risk factors for workplace encounters with weapons by hospital employees," *Public Health in Practice*, volume 2, November 2021.
⁴ "Physical Security Vertical Market Assessment: Health Care," OMDIA and SIA, accessed December 27, 2021.



AI-Enabled Evolv Express System and Evolv Insights

A different approach using high-speed sensors and artificial intelligence (AI)-based security screening is an immensely better option. The Evolv Express® system delivers a touchless screening experience for patients, staff, and visitors and eliminates queues that form in front of emergency room (ER) and hospital entrances. And when a potential threat is detected, a red box on the Express tablet pinpoints the location where it is located on the body of the patient, visitor, or staff member. Thus, only the area of the suspected threat needs to be search by security staff. The Express system also is portable, enabling hospital security teams to set up new ingress areas for events and other activities quickly and easily (e.g., testing areas for a new contagion like COVID-19).

Another advantage that the Express unit has over traditional metal detection systems is integrated analytics. Specifically, Evolv enables hospitals to analyze weapons-security screening data to optimize their use of security personnel, configure sensitivity settings on the Express system, and demonstrate the risk impact their investment in Evolv is delivering to executive

management. These analytical capabilities are available to every Evolv customer in the My Evolv Portal via Evolv Insights. As soon as an Evolv Express system is turned on and configured, Evolv customers can access and begin using Evolv Insights.

“I’ve been waiting years for someone to invent something like a concealed weapons detection technology where you can just freely walk through and don’t need to empty out your pockets and take everything out of your bags as part of the screening process.”

- Head of Public Safety and Emergency Management, Hospital in U.S. Midwest

7 Ways You Can Leverage Evolv Insights Analytics

The following are 7 ways in which hospitals and medical facilities can benefit from Evolv Insights:

- 1 OPTIMIZE USE OF SECURITY STAFF.**
Healthcare organizations face increasing costs and staffing shortages. Evolv Insights provides analytics on ingress volume down to five-minute intervals at each entrance per event type and allocate security staff based on those flows. This enables security and operations teams to optimize limited staff for maximum efficiencies and efficacy.
- 2 ELIMINATE WAIT QUEUES.**
Many incoming patients have urgent healthcare issues and cannot wait in security screening queues before receiving treatment. Evolv Insights enables healthcare organizations to determine how many patients and visitors entered a facility and at what time they entered. Security and operations teams can plan resource allocation to ensure no lines form at entrances and impact patients, visitors, or staff.
- 3 ENHANCE SECURITY EFFICACY.**
Analyze security alerts and threats confirmed based on entrance, time of entry, day of the week, time of the year, system detection performance, alarm statistics, and detection settings. Organizations can leverage this information for decision-making related to security staffing, sensitivity settings on Evolv Express systems, and secondary screening processes.
- 4 REDUCE AND STREAMLINE SECONDARY SCREENING.**
Review data on false positives, location of threat detection on the body of patients, visitors, and staff (e.g., shoulder, ankle, waist), and the sensitivity level when threats were identified to reduce the number of secondary screenings without impacting the efficacy of security.

- 5 TRACK AND ANALYZE WEAPONS DETECTION.**
Track the number and types of weapons found, the location where the weapon was found on the body of the patient, visitor, or staff, the entrance, the time of arrival, and the sensitivity setting at which the Express system was running when the weapon was detected. This detailed weapons detection information allows healthcare security and operations teams to reallocate staffing resources, adjust sensitivity settings on Express systems, and adjust processes and flows for secondary screening.
- 6 IDENTIFY STAFF WHO NEED ADDITIONAL SECURITY TRAINING.**
Track which alerts are tagged and untagged by individual security staff to identify those requiring “refresher” training on security systems and processes. This enables organizations to ensure staff managing Evolv Express systems get optimal value in terms of both efficiencies as well as efficacy.
- 7 CHANGE GUEST ARRIVAL TIMES FOR IMPROVED EXPERIENCES.**
Determine patient, visitor, and staff arrival times to eliminate any lines at entrances (e.g., staffing shift changes, patient arrivals for procedures in the morning, visitor hours, etc.). This allows organizations to avoid crowding at entrances by shifting arrival times for patients, visitors, and guests.

“Staff were really appreciative of having this major step to ensure workplace safety. It’s been working really well for us and I’m confident that it could be a significant tool at the other hospitals. We want people to feel well-protected and assured that we have their backs.”

- Byran Anthony, Dir. of Security Services, Pennsylvania Hospital

Start Using Evolv Insights Today

While not every one of the above use cases may apply to your individual school, many of them do. The Evolv Express system creates wide-ranging benefits for K-12 schools, and the analytics of Evolv Insights and integrations with video management and mass notification systems are two that enable K-12 schools to get full value from their Evolv investments. The Evolv team is committed to the success of every customer—training and coaching them on every aspect of Evolv technology, including Evolv Insights analytics and integrations with partner video management and mass notification systems.

▶ **Discover how the Evolv Express system can protect your hospital or medical facility by watching:**
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