

A photograph of two healthcare professionals, a woman in a white lab coat and a man in blue scrubs, standing in a modern hospital hallway. They are looking at a document together. In the background, other people are walking, and there are large glass windows.

Six Ways to Better Secure Your Healthcare Facility

A summary of how AI-powered video analytics can help you meet the Joint Commission's goals for 2022 and beyond.



Protecting Healthcare Facilities, People and Assets

A key priority for healthcare facilities should be providing top-notch safety and security accommodations to their staff and visitors. Over the last year we saw a significant rate of hospitalization rates ranging from those aged 0-4 years to 65+ years. As healthcare facilities tirelessly worked to tend to patients, security teams looked to technology to help take a proactive approach to protecting patients and staff from potentially hazardous conditions.

The Joint Commission was established as a non-profit dedicated to accrediting over 22,000 healthcare organizations and programs. With a mission geared towards improving the public healthcare system, The Joint Commission provides organizations with the knowledge and expertise needed to improve patient safety.

The Joint Commission recently released their [National Patient Safety Goals® for January 2022](#) as part of their annual healthcare guide on safety and security recommendations. Each of these goals contain guidelines focused around enhancing healthcare quality and standards. By inspiring healthcare organizations to improve safety conditions, they can effectively mitigate potential risks and hazards.



Healthcare security practitioners utilize a wide variety of security tools to keep patients and employees of their facilities safe. AI-powered video analytics tools can be integrated with various other physical security technologies to help mitigate potential risks and hazards. Implementing these forward-thinking healthcare security strategies can help augment security efforts to ensure a safe and productive workplace environment for patients and staff.

As healthcare facilities continue to see a rise in patient care, it is critical to implement proactive safety plans for 2022 and beyond. Vintra's AI-powered video analytics platform can provide actionable and trusted intelligence resources that help improve the security and safety of its healthcare staff, patients and critical assets. **Below, we have identified the six goals from The Joint Commission and how Vintra's solution can help empower your security infrastructure.**



Goal #1: Ensure a Safe Working Environment

Keeping healthcare facilities safe and secure is critical to protecting the welfare of patients and staff members. Failure to do so may result in potential injury and compromised healthcare operations. The US Department of Labor reported that hospitals recorded over [221,000 work-related injuries](#) and illnesses in 2019.

Healthcare staff members may be vulnerable to both workplace risk factors and external threats. Outside threats can also pose a risk such as thieves entering the premises or individuals illegitimately posing as healthcare professionals. Angry or disgruntled former employees may return to their former workplaces to harass patients or staff. Family members may become angry when refused access to loved ones. No matter what the case may be, ensuring a safe work environment is a critical component of developing a secure and productive workplace.

Utilizing advanced AI-powered video analytics can help security teams identify known and potentially dangerous visitors using face Re-ID technology or advanced objects, such as long guns or bags, and event detection. The Vintra AI solution provides security teams with the tools necessary to help locate persons of interest and immediately mitigate threats. Integrated systems can enhance communication between security teams by triggering alerts when POIs enter or exit the premises. Parking lots and other high-traffic areas can also be surveilled to help manage visitors and pinpoint questionable activity, such as loitering or the attempted entry to an exit-only door.

Additionally, Vintra can also help ensure patients are protected when accidents occur on-site. If a patient slips or falls, the system can help trigger security response teams so that they can provide immediate assistance as needed.

**70% OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS
HAVE REPORTED ACTS OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST THEM,
ONLY 3% PRESSED CHARGES.
(AJMC, 2021)**

Goal #2: Establish Effective Communication Within Your Security Teams

Healthcare facilities are typically considered high-stress environments complete with a diverse population and variety of issues. Erratic situations can occur that subject healthcare workers to dangerous and haphazard conditions. In fact, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, [hospital workers are up to five times](#) as likely to be assaulted as compared to other private-sector jobs.



Some of the threats healthcare employees may be subjected to include:

- Acts or threat of terrorism
- Active shooter
- Theft of prescription medications or critical assets
- Uncooperative or violent hospital patients
- Patients leaving against medical advice (AMA)

Collaborating with security teams can help protect the welfare of patients and hospital staff by minimizing safety issues. Vintra's AI-powered video analytics searches through real-time or pre-recorded video to locate specific persons of interest (POI), track their exact locations and send alerts regarding a particular issue or incident. Vintra's Live Re-ID technology enables a person of interest to be continually identified as they move throughout a facility. Security teams can then respond appropriately to situations and mitigate safety concerns as needed.

Post-event, the Vintra platform can quickly generate a case, featuring all relevant video clips and other data, that can be shared with security and administrative staff to help minimize potential future threats.

UP TO 10%
OF REGISTERED PATIENTS
MAY BE MISIDENTIFIED DURING
THEIR HOSPITALIZATION STAYS

Goal #3: Identifying Patients Correctly

Patient identification is one of the most fundamental yet critical aspects of the healthcare system.

Although it may appear to be a simplistic component within the healthcare framework, the reality is that problems are more frequent than people realize. In fact, industry research has indicated that up to [10%](#) of registered patients may be misidentified during their hospitalization stays.

The prevalence of outdated systems, duplicated medical records and simple human errors can result in drastic consequences for healthcare facilities. Patient identification errors can result in a wide range of issues including incorrect treatments and exposure to potential contaminants.

One very specific issue is with regards to Against Medical Advice (AMA) discharges, whereas a patient seeks to leave the hospital on their own accord, potentially harming themselves in the process. With a significant and increasing prevalence of up to 1–2% of all hospital admissions, leaving against medical advice affects both the patient and the healthcare provider (US National Library of Medicine, 2021). Vintra's AI-powered video analytics can also be integrated with alerting systems to prevent these AMA discharges and other high-liability events. Staff can easily find lost patients using Re-ID technology,



which can quickly search for and locate an individual across multiple cameras across the facility. As a result, Vintra's solution can help meet the Joint Commission's goal of identifying patients correctly from a security and safety perspective.

Goal #4: Improve Safety of High-Alert Medications

The prescription drug epidemic has exponentially increased in recent years as more than [70,000 Americans died](#) from drug-related overdoses in 2019. Healthcare facilities can often be a target for thieves and addicted individuals to access these medications illegitimately. In fact, over [24%](#) of drug theft occurs within hospitals.

Controlling drug access and permissions is critical to maintaining functional healthcare operations. Pharmacies must be able to balance flexibility and easy access with strict control and permissions. Implementing proper chain of custody mechanisms can help prevent unwarranted thievery and tampering by tracking the movement and physical location of medications.

Vintra's AI-powered video solutions provide a force-multiplier for security teams to ensure 24/7 monitoring of critical areas like drug distribution closets, pharmacies. They also provide lightning-fast investigative capabilities so issues can be quickly resolved through the instant search of video for nearly any person, vehicle, or event. Vintra can closely monitor highly vulnerable access points to ensure only authorized staff and medical professionals can access medication by setting up zoning and alerting on unauthorized intrusion through that specific zone. Protecting the safety of medications can help ensure healthcare facilities adhere to appropriate federal regulations and compliance standards.

OVER 24%
OF DRUG THEFT
OCCURS WITHIN HOSPITALS

Goal #5: Proper Disposal of Wasteful Materials

Healthcare facilities contain various types of hazardous materials and byproducts. Whether it be infectious human waste, contaminated surgical instruments, or bodily fluids — each of these bio-hazardous substances must be properly disposed of in order to prevent the spread of illness and disease as regulated by your state and/or local government. In fact, some state [regulatory requirements](#) for wasteful material generators may be more stringent than the federal program. The costs of violating these standards varies on a case-by-case basis. Depending on the severity, medical waste violation fines can range from \$5,000 to \$70,000 per violation under OSHA recommendations alone. This does not include fines from other agencies, like state environmental departments such as the Department of



Transportation or the Environmental Protection Agency. For a much more comprehensive list - [please click here.](#)

Establishing an adequate chain of custody can help ensure only individuals with proper clearance can access medical waste disposal sites. Enacting a proactive approach to healthcare waste disposal can help limit the risk of injury and exposure. Safeguarding these critical areas can help protect the wellness of both healthcare staff and patients. Furthermore, it can help ensure hospitals adhere to appropriate state and federal medical waste regulations and guidelines.

Mitigating serious healthcare facility security risks requires adequate chain of custody procedures along with appropriate handling and transporting measures. The Vintra solution uniquely identifies faces and bodies, allowing security teams to seamlessly track the chain of custody and, using an open API framework, can play a role in by preventing tailgating occurrences where multiple people enter restricted areas with a single badge.

**APPROXIMATELY
30% OF INPATIENT FALLS
RESULT IN INJURY, WITH
4% TO 6% RESULTING
IN SERIOUS INJURY.**
(US NATIONAL LIBRARY OF
MEDICINE, 2021)

Goal #6: Using Alarm Systems to Limit Patient Harm

Healthcare facilities have the responsibility of protecting the health and safety of patients to the best of their ability—providing treatment for disease and illnesses is only the beginning. All healthcare staff should be given the tools and technology to facilitate an environment that promotes health, wellness, and a positive workplace culture. Any aspect of healthcare management that takes away from this overarching goal should be promptly eliminated.

As a healthcare facility has a wide range of physical and behavioral ailments, individuals experiencing issues related to dementia may get lost or start wandering around facilities aimlessly. Patients may also trip or fall down without staff members immediately in close proximity. According to the Office of the Inspector General, nearly [10% of adverse events](#) within Medicare nursing facilities were due to patients falling down.

In certain situations, individual alarm signals may be difficult to detect. By ingesting live streams and recorded clips from various security camera systems, Vintra can deliver accurate alerts on events where people fall and fast-acting video technology that can be deployed on-premise to improve the safety and security of patients.

Certain areas within healthcare facilities are restricted access zones that patients do not have access



to. Whether it be areas containing biohazardous material or pharmaceuticals, limiting access to these potentially dangerous sites can help prevent significant harm or injury or compliance violations. The Vintra solution can be seamlessly integrated with already-installed cameras to monitor patient movement and reduce potentially harmful events like trip and falls or unauthorized access to critical areas.

Vintra's unique solution can search or trigger an alert to the security center in the event where patients may be out of their designated rooms / areas. Once security teams are notified they can instantaneously track, locate and bring individuals to safety. Mitigating harmful situations can help prevent small scale issues from becoming more dangerous incidents or threats.

Conclusion

The safety of patients, staff members and critical assets should remain top of mind for healthcare facilities. Protecting healthcare personnel will enable campuses to better manage the needs of patients within a safe and secure workplace environment. The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals provides organizations with guidelines and standards to help improve patient safety and welfare.

Vintra's unique AI-powered video analytics provide a modern-day approach to video surveillance systems that helps healthcare organizations comply with the guidelines set forth by The Joint Commission.

As a smarter way to secure patients and staff, Vintra's AI-powered video analytics solutions can deliver healthcare facilities with real-time and/or pre-recorded video intelligence system technology. Equipping security teams with the tools necessary for protecting healthcare staff can drastically improve emergency response times while minimizing potential threats.

AI-powered analytics can both directly deliver enhanced patient safety and empower staff to continuously create the type of secure environment that promotes patient recovery and welfare.

About Vintra

Vintra delivers AI-powered video analytics solutions that transform any real-world video into actionable, tailored and trusted intelligence. Its enterprise-grade software solution makes existing security cameras – whether fixed or mobile – smarter and improves how organizations and governments automatically monitor and search video for critical security and safety events.

Fortune 100 companies, critical infrastructure providers, major health organizations, the US national security community and some of the largest public safety organizations in the United States trust Vintra to dramatically enhance their physical security and safety capabilities without expanding their headcount.

For more information regarding Vintra's AI-powered video analytics for healthcare facilities, please visit vintra.io or talk with one of our team members at (408) 610-8959.

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