

List of Weapons and Prohibited Items

These lists provide examples of what may be considered legal or illegal weapons or prohibited items in Island Health-operated facilities. The lists are not exhaustive. Follow the *Weapons and Prohibited Items in the Workplace* and *Searching Patients' Belongings, Room and Person for Weapons and Prohibited Items* policies for details on safely securing weapons and prohibited items.

Weapons

- Firearms.
- Knives/knife-like objects.
- Brass knuckles, nunchucks, clubs and batons.
- Martial arts devices.
- Pellet guns, sling shots and catapults.
- Bows, cross-bows, arrows, darts and box cutters.
- Explosives and incendiary devices (such as ammunition, flare guns, fireworks, gas, torches, carbon dioxide cartridges, or other pressurized gas containers/tanks).
- Chemicals or disabling gas (such as mace, pepper or bear spray), or caustic materials, including acids.

Prohibited Items

- Illegal drugs and substances (such as cocaine, opiates, and cannabis not prescribed by a physician).
- Alcohol, prescribed medications, syringes and needles if not part of treatment plan.
- Any mind-altering substance that potentially contributes to violent behaviour and puts staff at risk.
- Lighters or fire-starter.

Examples

Sometimes even common items can be unexpectedly used as weapons. Be able to identify potentially dangerous items, consider the circumstance, environment and behaviour of the patient, and be familiar with the *Weapons and Prohibited Items in the Workplace* policy.

- Box cutters, brought into the hospital by a grocery store stockperson.
- A utility knife, worn on the belt of a patient's grandfather.
- Any of the many tools on an electrician's or construction worker's belt.
- Clipboards, pens, scissors, and other common workplace supplies.
- Medical supplies, such as needles and syringes, and various items on hospital carts that could be used as weapons.