# EMS Violence Assessment Tool (VAT)

This form is to be completed by clinical healthcare worker or manager/supervisor.

  
Right click on the box above, select “insert image” to insert your logo

**Patient’s Name:** Click here to enter text.

**Identification #:**Click here to enter text.

**Initial Assessment  Reassessment**

Section A: Risk Indicators

Read the list of behaviours below and identify behaviours that will require specific care interventions. A score of 1 is applied for past occurrence of any of the History of Violence behaviours; and additional scores of 1 are applied for each observed behavior. Add the scores — **the maximum is 12**.

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| ****HISTORY OF VIOLENCE:****  Score 1 for past occurrence of any of the following: | **SCORE** |
| * Exercising physical force, in any setting, towards any person including a caregiver that caused or could have caused injury * Attempting to exercise physical force, in any setting, towards any person including a caregiver that could cause injury * Statement or behaviours that could reasonably be interpreted as threatening to exercise physical force, in any setting, against any person including a caregiver that could cause injury | Click here to enter text. |
| ****OBSERVED BEHAVIORS:****  Score 1 for each of the observed behaviour categories below if you see any of the following examples. | **SCORE** |
| Confused  (Disoriented – e.g., unware of time, place, or person) | Click here to enter text. |
| Irritable (Easily annoyed or angered; Unable to tolerate the presence of others; Unwilling to follow instructions) | Click here to enter text. |
| Boisterous  (Overtly loud or noisy – e.g., slamming doors, shouting etc.) | Click here to enter text. |
| Verbal Threats (Raises voice in an intimidating or threatening way; Shouts angrily, insulting others or swearing; Makes aggressive sounds) | Click here to enter text. |
| Physical Threats  (Raises arms / legs in an aggressive or agitated way; Makes a fist; Takes an aggressive stance; Moves / lunges forcefully towards others) | Click here to enter text. |
| Attacking Objects  (Throws objects; Bangs or breaks windows; Kicks object; Smashes furniture) | Click here to enter text. |
| Agitate/Impulsive  (Unable to remain composed; Quick to overreact to real and imagined disappointments; Troubled, nervous, restless or upset; Spontaneous, hasty, or emotional) | Click here to enter text. |
| ****Paranoid / suspicious**** (Unreasonably or obsessively anxious; Overly suspicious or mistrustful – e.g., belief of being spied on or someone conspiring to hurt them) | Click here to enter text. |
| ****Substance intoxication / withdrawal**** (Intoxicated or in withdrawal from alcohol or drugs) | Click here to enter text. |
| ****Socially inappropriate / disruptive behaviour**** (Makes disruptive noises; Screams; Engages in self-abusive acts, sexual behaviour or inappropriate behaviour – e.g., hoarding, smearing feces / food, etc.) | Click here to enter text. |
| ****Body Language**** (Torso shield – arms / objects acting as a barrier; Puffed up chest – territorial dominance; Deep breathing / panting; Arm dominance – arms spread, behind head, on hips; Eyes – pupil dilation / constriction, rapid blinking, gazing; Lips – compression, sneering, blushing / blanching) | Click here to enter text. |
| ****TOTAL SCORE**** | Click here to enter text. |
| Patient’s Risk Rating:  Low (0)  Moderate (1-3)  High (4-5)  Very High (6+) | |

**Completed By (Name/ Designation)** Click here to enter text. **Date:** Click here to enter text.

Section B: Overall Risk Rating

Apply the total behaviour score to the Risk Rating Scale to determine whether the patient’s risk level is low, moderate, high or very high. Each level provides cues for further action to consider. If moderate or high / very high risk is determined, complete Section C to identify factors that may trigger or escalate violent, aggressive, or responsive behaviour and ensure the care plan includes measures to avoid or reduce risk behaviours identified.

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| **Overall Score** | **Actions to take** |
| **Low  Score of 0** | * Continue to monitor and remain alert for any potential increase in risk * Communicate any change in behaviours, that may put others at risk to the manager / supervisor * Ensure communication devices / processes are in place (e.g., radio, personal safety / man-down alarm, check-in protocol and / or global positioning tracking system) |
| **Moderate  Score of 1-3** | * Apply flag alert * Promptly notify manager / supervisor so they can inform relevant staff and coordinate appropriate staffing and workflow * Request additional assistance / police back-up, when needed * Scan environment for potential risks and remove if possible * Address known triggers, behaviours and implement organization / provincially accepted safety measures appropriate for the situation * Use effective therapeutic communication (e.g., maintain a calm, reassuring demeanor, remain non-judgmental and empathetic) * Be prepared to apply behaviour management and self-protection techniques appropriate for the situation in accordance to organizational policy / Montessori – training programs provided may include GPA, Montessori, SMG, P.I.E.C.E.S, U-First, Stay Safe MORB training, self-defense * Ensure communication devices / processes are in place (e.g., radio, personal safety / man-down alarm, check-in protocol and / or global positioning tracking system) * Communicate any change in behaviours, that may put others at risk to manager / supervisor * Inform client of VAT results, when safe to do so other * Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **High Score of 4-5**  **OR**  **Very High Score of 6+** | * Apply flag alert * Promptly notify program manager / supervisor so they can ensure relevant staff are on high alert and prepared to respond * Request additional assistance / police back-up, when needed * Scan environment for potential risks and remove if possible * Address known triggers, behaviours and implement organization / provincially approved safety measures appropriate for the situation for both clients and workers * Initiate applicable referrals * Use effective therapeutic communication (maintain a calm, reassuring demeanor, remain non-judgmental and empathetic) * Be prepared to apply behaviour management and self-protection techniques in accordance to organizational policy / Montessori – training programs provided may include GPA, Montessori, SMG, P.I.E.C.E.S, U-First, Stay Safe MORB training, self-defense * Ensure communication device / process is in place – (e.g., phone, personal safety / man-down alarm, check-in protocol and / or global positioning tracking system) * Communicate any change in behaviours, that may put others at risk, to the program manager / supervisor * Activate emergency communication codes as necessary * Inform client of VAT results, when safe to do so * Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

Section C: Contributing Factors

Physical, psychological, environmental, and activity triggers can lead to or escalate violent, aggressive or responsive behaviours. Documenting known triggers and behaviours and asking your patient or substitute decision maker (SDM) to help identify them can help you manage them more effectively and safely. Use the information collected and the intervention resources listed in Section B of the VAT and Appendix A of the Individual Client Risk Assessment Toolkit of the PSHSA Individual Client Risk Tool to develop an individualized violence prevention care plan and a safety plan to protect workers at risk.

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| **QUESTION FOR CLIENT:** | **CONSIDERATIONS – Select any that Apply** | | | | |
| To help us provide the best care possible, please describe if there is anything during your stay that could cause you to become agitated, upset or angry  e.g., I am agitated when… | **PHYSICAL** | **PSYCHOLOGIAL** | | **ENVIRONMENTAL** | **ACTIVITY** |
| hunger  pain  infection  new medication  other Click here to enter text.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | fear  uncertainty  feeling neglected  loss of control  being told to calm down  being lectured  other Click here to enter text.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | noise  lighting  temperature  scents  privacy  time of day  days of the week visitors  small spaces/ overcrowding  other Click here to enter text.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | bathing medication past experiences  toileting  changes in routine  resistance to care  other Click here to enter text.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **What works to prevent or reduce the behaviour(s)**  e.g., When I am agitated, it helps if I… | Go for a walk Listen to music  Watch TV Draw  Read (Bible/Book)  Have space and time alone  Talk 1:1 with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Click here to enter text. (who?)  Participate in activities Consult a family member or friend | | **POTENTIAL DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES**  Identify potential de-escalation strategies using above information such as respect personal space, actively listen, offer choices, give eye contact, use humor | | |
| Click here to enter text.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | |