# Long Term Care 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

**Resident’s Name:**

**Identification #:**

**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 |  |
| ****OBSERVED BEHAVIORS:****  Score 1 for each of the observed behaviour categories below. | **SCORE** |
| Confused  (Disoriented – e.g., unware of time, place, or person) |  |
| Irritable (Easily annoyed or angered; Unable to tolerate the presence of others; Unwilling to follow instructions) |  |
| Boisterous  (Overtly loud or noisy – e.g., slamming doors, shouting etc.) |  |
| Verbal Threats (Raises voice in an intimidating or threatening way; Shouts angrily, insulting others or swearing; Makes aggressive sounds) |  |
| Physical Threats  (Raises arms / legs in an aggressive or agitated way; Makes a fist; Takes an aggressive stance; Moves / lunges forcefully towards others) |  |
| Attacking Objects  (Throws objects; Bangs or breaks windows; Kicks object; Smashes furniture) |  |
| Agitate/Impulsive  (Unable to remain composed; Quick to overreact to real and imagined disappointments; Troubled, nervous, restless or upset; Spontaneous, hasty, or emotional) |  |
| ****Paranoid / suspicious**** (Unreasonably or obsessively anxious; Overly suspicious or mistrustful – e.g., belief of being spied on or someone conspiring to hurt them) |  |
| ****Substance intoxication / withdrawal**** (Intoxicated or in withdrawal from alcohol or drugs) |  |
| ****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.) |  |
| ****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) |  |
| ****TOTAL SCORE**** |  |
| Resident’s Risk Rating:  Low (0)  Moderate (1-3)  High (4-5)  Very High (6+) | |

**Completed By (Name/ Designation) Date:**

Section B: Overall Risk Rating

Apply the total behaviour score to the Risk Rating Scale to determine whether the resident’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 unit manager / supervisor * Ensure communication devices / processes are in place (e.g. Phone, personal safety alarm, check-in protocol and / or global positioning tracking system) |
| **Moderate  Score of 1-3** | * Apply flag alert * Promptly notify shift supervisor so they can inform relevant staff and coordinate appropriate resident placement, unit staffing, and workflow * Alert back-up staff / security / or police and request assistance, when needed * Scan environment for potential risks and remove if possible * Ensure section c is completed and initiate the violence prevention care planning process – care plan should address known triggers, behaviours and include safety measures appropriate for the situation for both residents and workers * Use effective therapeutic communication (e.g. Maintain a calm, reassuring demeanor, remain non-judgmental and empathetic, and provide person-centered care * Be prepared to be prepared to apply behaviour management and self-protection teachings according to organizational policy/ procedures that are appropriate for the situation – training programs provided may include GPA, Montessori, SMG, P.I.E.C.E.S, U-First, Stay Safe MORB training, self-defense * Collaborate with Behavioural Support Ontario (BSO) trained staff / psychogeriatric resource consultant as required * Ensure communication devices / processes are in place (e.g., phone, personal safety alarm, check-in protocol and / or global positioning tracking system) * Communicate any change in behaviours, that may put others at risk, to the shift supervisor * Inform client or SDM of VAT results, when safe to do so * Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **High Score of 4-5**  **OR**  **Very High Score of 6+** | * Apply flag alert * Promptly notify shift supervisor so they can ensure relevant staff are on high alert and prepared to respond * Alert back-up staff / security /police and request assistance when needed * Scan environment for potential risks and remove if possible * Ensure section c is completed and initiate the violence prevention care planning process– care plan should address known triggers, behaviours and include safety measures appropriate for the situation for both residents and workers * Use effective therapeutic communication (e.g., maintain a calm, reassuring demeanor, remain non-judgmental and empathetic, and provide person-centered care * Be prepared to apply behaviour management and self-protection teaching 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 * Initiate applicable referrals * Collaborate with Behavioural Support Ontario (BSO) trained staff / psychogeriatric resource consultant as required * Ensure communication devices / processes are in place (e.g., phone, personal safety alarm, check-in protocol and / or global positioning tracking system) * Communicate any change in behaviours, that may put others at risk, to the unit manager / supervisor * Call 911 / initiate code white response 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 resident 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 to develop an individualized violence prevention care plan and a safety plan to protect workers at risk.

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| **QUESTION FOR RESIDENT:** | **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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | fear  uncertainty  feeling neglected  loss of control  being told to calm down  being lectured  other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | noise  lighting  temperature  scents  privacy  time of day  days of the week visitors  small spaces/ overcrowding other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | bathing medication past experiences  toileting  changes in routine  resistance to care  other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (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 | | |
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