

IMMEDIATE RISK

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In some instances, consumers present with risk issues that have immediate potential implications. For example, a consumer may present indicating that they will shoot their family members when they get home, and that they have access to a gun. In cases such as these, the Framework escalation process is too lengthy to adequately respond to the level of presenting risk. This is part of the reason why the three tier approach within the Framework (and the V-RAM) is not designed for use in crisis situations. In cases such as these, services should follow **their regular protocols for managing crisis situations**. If it is appropriate, services may simultaneously begin the process of escalating assessments through the Tiers, with a view to obtaining long-term strategies for risk management as soon as possible.

The V-RAM is developed for use when immediate violence risk has been contained.

The following questions will guide V-RAM assessors to determine if violence risk is imminent:

- Does the consumer have any current ideation or stated intent to enact violence? Do they feel violence is indicated, necessary and entirely justifiable?
- Does the consumer have a plan to enact violence?
- What is the consumer's propensity for impulsivity, emotional disinhibition, and/or reactivity?
- To what extent is the consumer able to regulate their own emotions and behaviour?
 - A consumer without a plan for violence may be an imminent risk if they have a history of impulsive reactive violence when angry or problem solving deficits.
- Has the consumer consumed excessive alcohol or illicit substance/s?
- Is the consumer presenting with active symptoms of psychosis or non-compliance with psychopharmacological medication?
- Does the consumer have the ability to enact violence?
- Does the consumer have access to a potential victim?
- Are they demonstrating themes of desperation, hopelessness/helplessness, being over-whelmed with frustration, or depleted of coping resources?
- Does the consumer's presentation indicate they believe their only strategy to cope is violence?

