

RISK SUMMARY TEMPLATE

The risk summary should only contain information that has been described in prior sections of the V-RAM (i.e., the background summary and sections detailing static and dynamic risk factors). No new information should be introduced in the summary.

Presenting Issues

Describe the presenting problem, as it relates to violence and/or the problem behaviour. Examples of presenting issues include threats of violence, command hallucinations instructing a consumer to harm others, and past history of violence.

Information listed in the purpose of assessment and background summary on the V-RAM is typically relevant to this section

Predisposing Factors

Note important factors that make the consumer more vulnerable to becoming violent (e.g., major mental disorder, previous violence, other anti-social behavior).

Static/predisposing factors on the V-RAM are typically relevant to this section.

Precipitating Factors

Identify factors which have triggered previous episodes of violence (e.g., criticism from an authority figure, onset of symptoms of a major mental disorder).

Dynamic factors that precipitated previous violence on the V-RAM are typically relevant to this section.

Perpetuating Factors

Note factors which maintain consumer's violence, as well as those which prevent it from decreasing without intervention. (e.g., impulsivity, poor emotion regulation, ongoing substance use, ongoing symptoms of a major mental disorder).

Dynamic factors that contribute to current and future risk on the V-RAM are typically relevant to this section.

Protective Factors

Identify and discuss factors that reduce the risk of violence (e.g., desire to change behavior, engagement with services, prosocial supports, employment, stable and safe living situation). It is important to consider whether listed protective factors are able to reduce risk in a stable, ongoing manner. It is also useful to consider whether protective factors will require external input to remain protective.

Protective factors / strengths on the V-RAM are typically relevant to this section.

High Risk Scenarios, Early Warning Signs, and Foreseeable Changes

Make a statement about circumstances in which a consumer is most vulnerable to becoming violent. Information about this should be drawn from each of the sections above, with emphasis on precipitating factors. The following concepts each provide a slightly different perspective which contributes to this aspect of the risk summary:

High Risk Scenarios This refers to a constellation of context-based features that are likely to prompt violent behaviour within a consumer. For example, conflict with family in the context of increasing persecutory delusions, several days of missed medication, and broad mental state deterioration.

Early Warning Signs This refers to indicators (both behavioural and psychological) that a consumer's violence risk is increasing. Early warning signs can be identified by examining changes preceding previous episodes of violence. For example, social isolation (behavioural), and increasing preoccupation with persecutory delusions (psychological).

Foreseeable Changes This refers to specific events which are likely to occur in the near future and to have a negative impact on risk. For example, an upcoming custody hearing. Information in the section describing foreseeable changes on the V-RAM is relevant to this section.

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Victim Group

Report potential victims of future violence, e.g. family, ex-partner, neighbours, or staff. Note the characteristics of previous victims of the consumer's violent behaviors. Consideration of patterns in such characteristics can be used to identify potential future victims.

Severity of Violence

Report on the severity of the previous violence that the consumer has previously engaged in, and the factors which have led to more (or less) severe violence in the past. Also note the severity of the violence the consumer is currently threatening, as well as factors that are likely to increase the severity violence (e.g. access to, and willingness to use, weapons). If appropriate, use this information to make an assessment of the severity of the violence a consumer is at risk of engaging in, in the short term.

Imminence of Violence

Make a statement about how soon future violence is likely to occur (e.g. 24 to 48 hours). Note if there is an imminent or short-term risk of violence; or whether the risk is an ongoing, longer term risk. When considering imminence of violence, take into consideration the degree to which the consumer's current presentation features precipitants, early warning signs, and triggers of past violence; as well as issues that have previously been identified as foreseeable changes. Further, consider factors such as violence ideation, intent, plan, and access to means for perpetrating violence.

Conclusion (including statement of risk status and risk state)

Provide an overall summation of the consumer's level of risk, and how the factors appearing in the summary interact to produce this risk. Report on the consumer's **risk status** and **risk state**. **Risk status** refers to the consumer's level of risk compared to a specified population (e.g., the general population). In the case of violence, this is largely contingent on static factors present for a consumer. **Risk state** refers to the consumer's level of risk in comparison to previous periods in their life (especially pre-morbidly, if such data are available). In the case of violence, this is largely contingent on dynamic factors present for a consumer.