



Adult Using Family Violence BRIEF OBSERVATION TOOL

SURNAME: UR NO (IF KNOWN):

GIVEN NAMES:

D.O.B: SEX:

ADMISSION DATE:

CONSULTANT: WARD/CLINIC:

USE LABEL IF AVAILABLE

Use when an adult patient, carer or family member displays behaviours that may indicate the use of family violence. Accurately describe each narrative or behaviour that is observed.

REMEMBER Identification level - do not ask direct questions about the use of family violence.

Adult (person who may be using family violence) details – use label (top of form) and in addition, below:

Primary address:

Other identifying information if not current patient:

Relationship to person experiencing family violence

Person who may be experiencing family violence (victim survivor)

Name: DOB: UR no: if known

Primary address:

Current address:

Other identifying information:

Children (potential victim survivor/s), document details if known:

Names:

Primary address:

Relationship to Adult using Family Violence:

SECTION 1: Observed narratives or behaviours indicating or disclosing use of family violence risk factors

Observed narratives: Beliefs or attitudes

Makes statements denigrating or putting down a person or group based on identity, decisions or actions

Observation:

Makes statements that indicate belief in entitlement/ownership/control over victim survivor and/or children

Observation:

Blames victim survivor (eg describing their behaviour or presentation as behavioural disorder, mental illness, addiction)

Observation:

Comments negatively on victim survivor's decisions and actions/makes decisions for them

Observation:

Openly dismisses victim survivor's viewpoints and/or needs, particularly if it conflicts with their own

Observation:

Displays limited empathy or desire to understand the experiences of victim survivor

Observation:

Criticises ex/partner's parenting (putdowns, devaluing worth) threatens to report them to authorities for 'poor parenting'

Observation:

Observed behaviours: Physical / verbal behaviour

Displays controlling behaviour, indicators of jealousy and/or possessiveness

Observation:

Controls adult victim survivor's finances and/or access to employment and/or family members and/or housing

Observation:

Discloses they have threatened and/or damaged victim/survivor's property

Observation:

Demonstrates threatening non-verbal behaviour (physical standover, intrusion into personal space)

Observation:

Insists on sitting in on appointments with victim survivor, interrupts, corrects and/or dominates victim survivor in conversation

Observation:

Discloses any harm or threat to harm victim survivor or pets or themselves

Observation:



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Expresses any feelings of excessive anger that is 'outside of their control'

Observation:

Observed narratives: Minimising or justifying

Minimising physical harm and/or neglect (especially in vulnerable others, older people, children, people with a disability)

Observation:

Presents or talks about themselves as the real victim (victim stance)

Observation:

Uses impulsivity as justification of violent and abusive behaviours (may relate to presenting needs such as mental health, use of alcohol/drugs)

Observation:

Clinician experience of observed narratives or behaviours – give an accurate description

Tries to get you (clinician) to agree with their negative views about their partner or family member [invitation to collude]

Observation:

Hospital staff observes or feels, intimidated, manipulated and/or controlled

Observation:

Direct disclosure of use of family violence:

Not indicated

Brief Description:

Indicated:

Requires immediate action

Section 2: Presenting needs and circumstances (related to risk or protective factors)

Personal identity, status of relationships/dynamics:

Social and community connections:

Other services involved or system interventions (eg child protection, alcohol and other drugs services)

Practical or environmental issues:

Section 3: Presence of risk indicators / factors (serious risk indicators / factors in bold)

Observed narratives and behaviours indicate or disclose use of family violence risk (to adult or child victim survivor)

Not indicated

Indicated:

Requires immediate action

Discloses risk or threat to self or any other person in community (including you/professional)

Not indicated

Indicated:

Requires immediate action

Comments or details: What is known, describe what has been seen or heard



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Section 3 continued: Presence of risk indicators / factors (serious risk indicators / factors in bold)

- Physical assault while pregnant/following new birth**
- Planning to leave or recent separation**
- Escalation – increase in severity/frequency of violence**
- Imminence# (eg, approaching court matters, release from prison)
- Financial abuse/difficulties
- Controlling behaviours**
- Access to or use of weapons**
- Use of weapon in most recent incident**
- Has ever harmed or threatened to harm victim or family members
- Has ever tried to strangle or choke victim**
- Has ever threatened to kill victim**
- Has ever harmed or threatened to harm or kill pets or other animals**
- Has ever threatened or tried to self-harm or commit suicide**
- Stalking of victim**
- Sexual assault of victim**
- Previous or current breach of court orders/intervention orders
- History of family violence#
- History of violent behaviour (not family violence)

- Obsession/jealous behaviour towards victim**
- Unemployment/disengaged from education**
- Drug and/or alcohol misuse/abuse**
- Mental illness/depression
- Isolation
- Physical harm#
- Emotional abuse#
- Property damage#

Risk factors specific to children connected to this adult:

- Child exposure to family violence#
- Sexualised behaviour towards a child by the person using family violence#
- Child intervention in violence#
- Behaviour indicating non return of the child#
- Undermining the child-parent relationship#
- Current police, court, corrections or child protection matters
- History of/or current professional and/or statutory intervention#**
- Change in behaviour not explained by other causes#**
- Child is a victim of other forms of harm#**

Evidence based risk factors, MARAM Foundation Knowledge Guide. #indicates emerging risk factors

- Current or previous IVO

Immediate Risk:

Discloses a targeted threat against any person:

Section 4: Actions required

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO TAKE IN THE PRESENCE OF SERIOUS RISK

- Seek urgent secondary consultation with senior clinician, social work or manager.
- Seek secondary consultation with The Orange Door 1800 512 359 (business hours); Safe Steps 1800 015 188 (after hours) or Men’s Referral Service (No To Violence) – 1300 766 491
- Contact Police 000 if you have immediate concern for the safety of any person
- Share risk relevant information in accordance with hospital information sharing protocols (FVISS and CISS)

If immediate risk indicators are not disclosed but indicators an adult may be using family violence are observed:

- Seek secondary consultation with senior clinician, social work or manager. consider secondary consultation with The Orange Door, Safe Steps or the Men’s Referral Service.
- Safely document according to protocol.

If the person discloses the use of family violence, no immediate or serious risk indicators are identified and if it is safe to do so offer information and referral to The Orange Door or Men’s Referral Service (numbers above)

ACTIONS TAKEN

Examples: Secondary consultation with senior staff member, external agency, referrals to social work (for presenting needs), proactive information sharing (follow information sharing protocols)
 Details:

Is the adult demonstrating indicators of use of family violence aware of referral? Yes No

AUTHOR DETAILS

Date:
Name:

Signature:

Designation/Role:

Contact/Pager No:

Review date: