

Comité interuniversitaire et interprofessionnel de développement  
professoral continu (CII-DPC)

**Titre du document :**

Guidelines for utilisation of the risk assessment  
tool for persons living at home: A Decisional aid

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**Guidelines for utilisation :**  
**Risk assessment tool for persons living at home: A Decisional aid**

**The objective of the *Risk assessment tool*:**

- Assist the health care team to identify risk factors of persons living alone at home
- Identify the common parameters evaluated by members of the health care team
- Assist to orient the intervention plan and address ethical issues

**Additional benefits of this *risk assessment tool* :**

- Develop a collaborative partnership among concerned parties
- Hold accountable every person or partner by specifying their individual responsibility
- Respect the autonomy of every person involved and clarify their respective roles

**This *risk assessment tool* does **NOT** :**

- Evaluate a person's level of competency
- Determine the need to order psychiatric evaluation
- Evaluate a person's cognitive function such as a Folstein
- Replace the form *Évaluation de l'autonomie fonctionnelle Multiclientèle*

**This *risk assessment tool* has four components:**

- *A checklist or memory aid*
- *Framework for assessing risks*
- *Five-pronged test set out in the Hospital acts of Nova Scotia*
- *A guide to Ethical decision making : Contextualization*

**How to use the *Risk assessment tool for persons living at home*?**

- Complete the *Framework for analyzing risks* using the *Checklist*
- Use the *Five-pronged test set out in the hospital acts of Nova Scotia* if you judge it necessary to evaluate the person's capacity to understand the treatment.
- Refer to the *Ethical decision making : Contextualization* to objectify the possible choices in situations which are litigious or for which there is no consensus.

**When determining the risk factors, the members of the health care team must take into account :**

- Past experience of the person being evaluated: values, lifestyle etc.
- Attenuating circumstances : available social support, acceptance of services etc.
- Aggravating circumstances : complete refusal of care, isolation, etc..

**There is **NO** score assigned to the risk factors**

- The Checklist identifies problems or risks but does not assign a numeric value
- The analysis will compare the identified problems or risks, any aggravating factors, and possible ways to further attenuate risks in the home

**When to use the *Risk assessment tool***

- In clinical discussions, during supervision, when allocating services, when exchanging with community partners (hospital, curator, MD, CLSC etc.)
- In complex situations when there is a need to modify the intervention plan due to risks at home, when situations are litigious or when there is splitting among members of the health care team.
- To clarify the responsibilities of each person with respect to the interventions

**How to archive the *Risk assessment tool***

- This decision will depend on the organization's policy and procedures
- We do suggest that this information be archived in the person's chart. The tool itself could be archived or a progress note can be made outlining the problems identified and the intervention plan.