

Health Care Sample Risk Factors Checklist

Use this checklist to assist in identifying risk factors that affect the workplace. This process takes into consideration job characteristics, environmental conditions, client characteristics and situational risk.

Characteristics of the workers' occupation that might increase risk:

The risk of violence is generally higher when the worker occupation involves physical contact with clients, particularly if the contact is one where the job involves regulation enforcement. List any job characteristic that potential can contribute to placing the worker at an increased risk of violence, such as

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|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dealing with ill clients | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing security functions | <input type="checkbox"/> Understaffing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization of work | <input type="checkbox"/> Changing of services | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of training in recognizing potential for violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improper assessment of client | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization of work | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to alert workers to client history of violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working alone | <input type="checkbox"/> Violence considered to be part of the job | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working at night | <input type="checkbox"/> Denial of services | |

Client characteristics that might be risk factors:

What are the risk factors related to the client that may create a risk of violence. The idea is to list any characteristics that could have caused the incident to occur. Examples could include the following characteristics.

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|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronically disgruntled | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial distress | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of privacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History of violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse or threats. | <input type="checkbox"/> No personal space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pushes limits of normal conduct | <input type="checkbox"/> Combination of medication | <input type="checkbox"/> Client access to weapons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unresolved Psychological problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature of illness | <input type="checkbox"/> Improperly placed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental or physical injury or illness | |

Environmental conditions that might increase the risk of incidents of violence

Consider the time of day, location of the work site, time of year and any other contributing environmental factors such as the following.

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|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workers who work alone | <input type="checkbox"/> Workers who travel by bus | <input type="checkbox"/> No response procedure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workers who work in high crime neighbourhoods. | <input type="checkbox"/> Working at night | <input type="checkbox"/> Having devices that can be used as weapons in proximity of clients |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workers who work in remote or isolated areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Obscured windows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workers who travel by car | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical design and work site layout | <input type="checkbox"/> Access by the public |

Situational risk:

What is the nature of the interaction-whether from a client or another family member. Some of the items to consider would be the prior history of the client, and violence prevention initiatives that are in place. What are the policies and procedures that might increase the risk to the worker assigned including the location where the work is being performed.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community profile | <input type="checkbox"/> High crime areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Arriving and leaving work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working at night | <input type="checkbox"/> No check in or out procedure | <input type="checkbox"/> Unwanted public having access to bldg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working late or early | <input type="checkbox"/> No method of communication | <input type="checkbox"/> No evacuation plan |