

Risk assessment is a step-by-step look at the workplace and work process to:

- Determine what violence prevention measures are already in place
- Identify potentially hazardous conditions, operations, activities, and situations that could contribute to workplace violence
- Determine the risk of future violent incidents, using the above information

Caring for a living, together

Across BC, HSA represents more than twelve thousand health care and social services professionals in acute care, long-term care and community health facilities, including child development centres and transition houses.



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What is a **RISK** assessment?

preventing violence in the health care workplace

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When should risk assessment be performed?

Risk assessment must be performed if a risk of workplace violence may be present (see section 4.28 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation). Risk assessment must be performed:

- As part of an investigation when incidents of workplace violence occur
- When the workload, level of service, or type of patient/client changes
- When the worksite changes
- At the planning stages of new facilities or service delivery
- At the planning stages of any changes to the work environment, such as building renovations and reorganization

Risk assessment must also be performed as an ongoing process to ensure that:

- The last risk assessment was done effectively
- Recommendations have been implemented
- Policy and procedures address workers' needs and concerns
- Training is effective
- Comprehensive records of incidents are kept and follow-up actions are taken to eliminate or minimize recurrence
- The workplace is in compliance with the OHS Regulation section on violence in the workplace and all other relevant sections

information courtesy of the workers' compensation board of bc publication
"preventing violence in health care: five steps to an effective program"

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WCB resources

WCB Prevention Information Line

604 276-3100 in the Lower Mainland
1 888 621-SAFE (7233) toll-free in B.C.

WCB Publications

The following WCB publications may be helpful:

- Health Care Industry: Focus Report on Occupational Injury and Disease
- Coping with Critical Incident Stress at Work (pamphlet)
- Gently into the Night: Aggression in Long-Term Care (by Neil Boyd)

These and other publications can be ordered from the WCB:

Phone: 604 / 276.3068
Toll-free: 1 800 / 661.2112, local 3068
Fax: 604 / 279.7406
E-mail: pubvid@wcb.bc.ca

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