



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

**Convention ID:** 1096

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### **A Quality Enhancement Program on Assessment and Management of Violence Risk for Psychiatric General Adult In-patient Units in Shatin Hospital: The Application of A New Evidence Based Assessment Tool on Violence Risk of In-patient**

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#### **Keywords:**

Violence Risk

Quality Enhancement Program

Psychiatric General Adult In-patient Units

Evidence Based Assessment Tool

#### **Introduction**

Psychiatric nurses face patient aggression while 90% of them had experienced in clinical practice (Rippon, 2000; Sands et al., 2009). Workplace violence brings along with negative impacts on various parties. Not only it discourages patients' recovery, extends length of stay and results in unpleasant hospitalization experience, but it also causes injury on duty (IOD), high turnover rate and lawsuits to healthcare professionals (Griffith et al., 2013; Needham et al., 2005; Duxburry & Whittington, 2005; Rippon, 2000). Although the assessment of violent risk is essential, the pre-existing instrument was loosely-structured and not validated. Thus, the Dynamic Appraisal of Situation Aggression-Inpatient Version (DASA-IV), which is a validated instrument to predict risk of violence in next 24 hours (Griffith et al., 2013), together with a structured multi-disciplinary approach in the management of violence were introduced to the in-patient units of Shatin Hospital.

#### **Objectives**

To introduce an evidence-based assessment tool of violence risk to in-patient setting;

To replace the pre-existing assessment tool of violence;

To reduce the incidence of workplace violence, restraint and injury on duty;

To improve patient's experience of hospitalization;

To enhance communication between multidisciplinary teams on the management of patient violence;

To strengthen nursing staff's skills on assessment and management of patients with violence risk.

#### **Methodology**

The DASA-IV was implemented to the psychiatric units of Shatin Hospital in January 2017 after a four-month pilot study at one of the acute admission ward from August 2016. Three training workshops were held to explain the use and application of DASA-IV to nursing staff. To enhance the inter-rater reliability, a video training material

was produced to demonstrate how to assess and rate the violent risk by the application of DASA-IV. By adopting the pretest-posttest design, two sets of questionnaires were distributed to nursing and allied health staff to assess their attitude towards the handling of violent patient in the working place in January 2017 and January 2018. Furthermore, a statistical review had been conducted to identify the incidence of restraint, IOD and compliance rate

### **Result**

DASA-IV showed a positive impact on staff's attitude towards handling of violent patients. Most of the nursing staff reflected that they had substantial gain from the training program and became more confident to assess the risk of violence by using DASA-IV. They reflected that DASA-IV facilitates a better identification of risk, early prediction and enhanced communication between disciplines. In 2017, the annual incidence of IOD decreased by 75% and the episodes of restraints also decreased by 10%. The compliance rate of DASA-IV was over 95%.