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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

B-SAFER

- Kropp, Hart, & Belfrage (2005, 2010)
- To assess risk for intimate partner violence
 - Males or females, age 18 and older
- 10 perpetrator risk factors in 2 domains
 - Intimate Partner Violence
 - Psychosocial Adjustment
- 5 Victim vulnerability factors

Administration

- 1 • Case information
- 2 • Presence of risk factors
- 3 • Management strategies
- 4 • Conclusory opinions

Step 1

Identify and gather information reasonably necessary for assessment

Document information reviewed and any important missing information

Step 2

Consider standard and case specific risk factors

Summarize judgments about presence, currently and in the past

Intimate Partner Violence

1. Violent Acts
2. Violent Threats or Thoughts
3. Escalation
4. Violation of Court Orders
5. Violent Attitudes

Other Considerations

Psychosocial Adjustment

6. General Criminality
7. Intimate Relationship Problems
8. Employment Problems
9. Substance Use Problems
10. Mental Health Problems

Other Considerations

Victim Vulnerability

11. Inconsistent attitudes or behaviour
12. Extreme fear of perpetrator
13. Inadequate support or resources
14. Unsafe living situation
15. Health problems

Other Considerations

Coding Presence

- Goal is to help summarize opinions regarding presence, based on the information reviewed

Yes	• Evidence the risk factor is or has been present
Possibly/Partially	• Possible or partial evidence the risk factor is or has been present
No	• No evidence the risk factor is or has been present

Coding Presence (cont.)

Past	• Prior to past month
Current	• Within past month

Step 3

Identify and target relevant risk factors

Specify management strategies and tactics

Relevance

Influences decisions about violence	• Influences decisions: motivates, disinhibits, or destabilizes
Complicates management of violence risk	• Makes it difficult to implement develop or implement management plans

Strategies

Monitoring	Supervision	Treatment	Victim Safety Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance or repeated assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imposition of controls or restriction of freedoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation, including further assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of security resources for identifiable targets

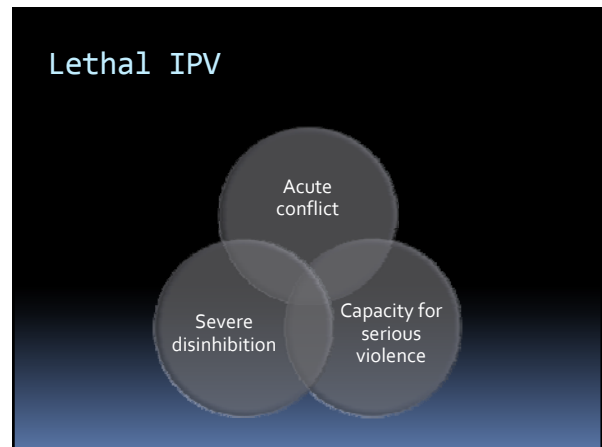
Step 4

Communicate summary judgments clearly and simply

Identify important limitations on opinions

Issues

Case Prioritization	Serious Physical Harm	Immediate Action	Case Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree of effort or intervention required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk for life-threatening violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent intervention taken or needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date for regular review and triggers for emergency review



Acute Conflict

- Involved in serious dispute or very upset over outcome of dispute
 - Especially marital separation, child custody
- Important warning signs:
 - Stalking
 - Ultimatum or conditional threat
 - "If you don't..."

Capacity for Serious Violence

- Demonstrated ability or willingness to engage in life-threatening violence
 - Especially current thoughts of violence, history of life-threatening violence
- Important warning signs:
 - Current thoughts of violence involve weapons or other high-lethality methods (e.g., strangulation)
 - Used weapons or high-lethality methods in past
 - Recent escalation of violence or violent thoughts of violence

Severe Disinhibition

- Mental state may overcome usual inhibitions against life-threatening violence
 - Especially mental or emotional problems
- Important warning signs:
 - Serious substance use
 - Serious mental illness (e.g., psychosis, depression)
 - Suicidal or nihilistic thoughts

Case Study: Smitho

Synopsis

- On 2010-10-23 at about 2310 hrs, Roger Roger confined his wife Anna and 4 daughters Cathy, Jill, Kailani, and Alyssa in a bedroom at the family home. He physically assaulted Anna and Cathy. He left the room and returned with a gas blow torch, a lighter, an electric drill, and a screw, and tried to screw the door closed while saying, "Now we can all die together." Roger was arrested for forcible confinement, uttering death threats, and assault.

People

- Roger, 46 years old, Philippines-born, works intermittently as a roofer
- Anna, 45 years old, Philippines-born, works full-time as an admin assistant at a local university
- Roger and Anna married in February 1990
- Their children are Canadian-born, ages 3, 5, 18, and 19

History of IPV

- Prior to past year
 - Physical assault ("discipline," "smacks")
 - Threats to burn down house with wife and children inside
- Past year
 - Physical assaults ("smacks")
 - Forced intercourse

Background

- Roger
 - Attitudes toward relationships and parenting, substance use, health problems
- Anna
 - Marital unhappiness, Facebook friend
- Children
 - Increasing independence

Intimate Partner Violence

- ✓ 1. Violent Acts
- ✓ 2. Violent Threats or Thoughts
- ✓ 3. Escalation
- ✗ 4. Violation of Court Orders
- ✓ 5. Violent Attitudes

Other Considerations

Psychosocial Adjustment

- ? 6. General Criminality
- ✓ 7. Intimate Relationship Problems
- ✓ 8. Employment Problems
- ✓ 9. Substance Use Problems
- ? 10. Mental Health Problems

Other Considerations

Victim Vulnerability

- ✓ 11. Inconsistent attitudes or behaviour
- ✗ 12. Extreme fear of perpetrator
- ✗ 13. Inadequate support or resources
- ✓ 14. Unsafe living situation
- ✗ 15. Health problems

Other Considerations

Questions

- Are there reasonable grounds to believe that Roger's abuse of Anna poses a threat to health and safety in the workplace?

If No...

- What warning signs might indicate that the risks are increasing?
- What reasonable steps could you take to monitor those warning signs?

If Yes...

- What kind of risks are you concerned about?
- What reasonable steps could you take to mitigate those risks?

Contact Information

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