

Assessments for visiting



Thorough consumer and home assessments assist in the identification of risks and minimise the likelihood of injury for staff.

Initial assessment

- A full consumer assessment and assessment of the property and neighbourhood should be conducted by 2 staff prior to commencement of direct home services.
- Obtain as much relevant information as possible from others and from the referring agency.

A **consumer assessment** for risk of aggression identifies any past history of aggression and current circumstances which might lead to aggression.

A **home assessment** identifies health and safety risks found in the physical environment of the home, neighbourhood, family and pets.

A **transport assessment** identifies risks prior to providing transport in a vehicle to a consumer.

Ongoing assessment

- Ongoing assessment for all risks should occur when any factor changes (e.g. entry/exit from hospital, change in support staff or case manager, new activities or relationships).

During every home visit staff should:

- check for hazards outside the home (e.g. uneven paths, pets present, poor lighting, other people, changes in the environment).
- check for hazards inside the home (e.g. be aware of exits, other people, lighting, potential weapons, evidence of alcohol or other drugs, signs of agitation or disagreement between people).

Managing the risk

- Once the potential hazards have been identified and the risks have been assessed, discuss the best way to deal with the problem.
- Organisations should decide, based on the risk levels identified, what policies or plans to use.
- Depending on risk, a process should be developed and followed to identify whether a home visit should occur or when 2 staff should visit.
- Management should ensure that all staff are fully briefed and updated on consumer assessments before conducting visits.

Remember:

If the assessed risk is too high do not carry out a home visit.