



The Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)

WHAT IS A PCRA?

- > A PCRA is an assessment that allows a health-care worker to assess the risks that are present for both their patient, their colleagues and themselves prior to providing care.
- > Templates for the conduct of a PCRA may be provided by your employer.
- > Each one of these templates can provide guidance for specific assessments that you should conduct. Used in concert with your clinical judgement and experience, PCRA's can reduce risks for both you and your patient.

CONDUCTING A PCRA

When and where?

- > In order to be effective, PCRA's need to be conducted both prior to and during patient care.
- > This means that your employer needs to give you the time to conduct the PCRA and appropriate training to understand how to use the template that they are utilizing.

PCRA IN PRACTICE

Understand and control risk

- > PCRA's can be used to reduce the risk of violence, decrease potential for exposure to pathogens and determine appropriate controls.
- > A PCRA may indicate that care should be delayed or altered or that appropriate PPE must be worn.

COVID-19

How can a PCRA impact care during the pandemic?

- > During the COVID-19 pandemic, nurses have been questioning the appropriate PPE to wear when treating patients who are suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19.
- > If available, employer provided PCRA templates should be used, along with experience and clinical judgement, to better understand PPE needs.
- > You have the right to know the risks in your workplace. Conduct a PCRA prior to any patient interaction to help judge the risks that are present.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Using PCRA's effectively

- > In order to be effective, PCRA's must be conducted and understood at every patient interaction.
- > Your employer must ensure that those risks are reduced to the lowest level practicable through all forms of safety controls.
- > PCRA templates, along with clinical judgement and experience, can help you understand the risks and take appropriate steps to control that risk.
- > You should report any concerns that you have directly to your manager or supervisor, ideally in writing. They should address your concerns.
- > If you need further support, you may contact the BCNU at 604-433-2268 (or 1-800-663-9991), and press 1 for the COVID-19 member safety and support line.