THE SHORT-TERM ASSESSMENT OF RISK AND TREATABILITY (START): STATUS UPDATE
OCTOBER 2012

Webster, Martin, Brink, Nicholls, & Middleton, 2004; Webster, Martin, Brink, Nicholls, & Desmarais, 2009

To download a pdf of the START coding sheet visit:

Recognition:

START has been identified as a tool for supporting best practice in managing violence and assessing multiple risks (Department of Health, 2007; Haque, Cree, Webster, & Hasnie, 2008). Experts have described it as a promising new measure for informing assessments of risk for aggression in inpatient psychiatric settings (Daffern, 2007). Doyle & Logan (2012) described the START as the only risk assessment measure that:

“...encapsulates potential triggers, the characteristics that switch risk on at any given time in a client’s daily life on a hospital ward or unit. Tools like the HCR-20 and RSVP focus overly on variables that create long-term vulnerability to harmful conduct (e.g., substance dependence), rather than on the triggers to an actual incident of harm (e.g., intoxication). In this way, combining the START with the HCR-20, and ensuring consideration is given to formulation and risk management, creates the most comprehensive risk assessment and risk management planning opportunity possible currently” (p. 417).

In February 2011, the BC Mental Health and Addiction Services START Program received a BC Quality Award for the ‘Living with Illness’ category. Given to our program by the BC Patient and Safety Quality Council, this award recognized contributions the START has made to developing and informing treatment practices throughout Forensic Psychiatric Services in BC (please see http://www.bcpsqc.ca/celebrating/awards2011-livingwithillness.html).

In December 2011, the use of the START at the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital was recognized by Accreditation Canada as a Leading Practice. The Accreditation Decision Committee found START to be a “sustainable, creative and innovative service….helping make health care safer and more quality focused for clients and their families.” For more information, please visit Accreditation Canada’s Leading Practice page on START at: http://www.accreditation.ca/en/LeadingPractice.aspx?id=2812
START (Adult Manual) Publications


References


