

Potential for Violent or Aggressive Behaviour

Nova Scotia Health is committed to creating and supporting a safe and respectful work environment for all staff, patients, families, and caregivers.

To help us do this:

- › We screen everyone who comes to a Nova Scotia Health Emergency Department (E.D.) for treatment for the potential of violence and aggression.

If you show a potential for violence or aggression, or have been violent or aggressive, we will add a note to your health record to help us keep you and our staff safe.

What do you mean by violence and aggression?

- **Violence** includes:
 - › Threatening to physically hurt someone
 - › Trying to physically hurt someone
 - › Physically hurting someone
- **Aggression** may be directed at:
 - › People (like yelling or swearing)
 - › Things (like hitting or breaking things)
- Sometimes, a person may be violent or aggressive towards others when they feel stressed, anxious, scared, or angry. This behaviour is a way for them to deal with their feelings. It may also be related to their medical condition or to the medications they are taking.

Why am I wearing a purple wristband? What does the purple sign mean?

- The wristband and sign show that:
 - › You have been screened using a violence assessment tool.
 - › Your behaviour shows a possible risk for violence.

We are responsible for keeping you and others safe. We will assess (check) your potential for violence or aggression regularly during your E.D. stay.

Remember: Many things can cause a person to act violent or aggressive.
You are not being blamed.

Will I always wear a purple wristband while I am here?

- You will wear a purple wristband for your current visit. If you visit the same site in the future, you will be screened again.

Will I be treated differently?

- Violence and aggression are 2 of the many things we screen for. Screening helps us make a care plan for each patient's needs.
- Staff will know your potential for violence or aggression when caring for you. We will make a care plan to help give you the best care we can. We do this for all of our patients.

Will you tell my family, caregivers, or staff what my purple wristband means?

- Under federal law, we must tell your family or caregivers if we learn that they are at risk of serious harm.
- Under provincial *Violence in the Workplace Regulations*, we must tell staff about:
 - › the potential for violence or aggression towards them.
 - › the nature and extent (amount) of the risk.
 - › any factors that may raise or lower the extent of the risk.

What if I do not agree with the assessment?

- If you have questions or concerns, please ask to talk to the charge nurse. If you still have concerns after talking to the charge nurse, please contact:

Patient Relations

- › Phone (toll-free): 1-844-884-4177
- › www.nshealth.ca/contact/feedback
- Nova Scotia Health welcomes, investigates, and addresses all concerns and complaints involving patient relations.

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:
<https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Guides>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

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