

Potential for Violent or Aggressive Behaviour

Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) is committed to creating and supporting a work environment that is safe and respectful for all of our staff, patients, and families. **To help us meet this commitment, all patients who come to an NSHA Emergency Department for treatment are screened for the potential (possibility) of violence and aggression.**

If you are identified as showing a potential for violence or aggression, or have demonstrated violence or aggression, we add a note to your health record to help us keep you and our staff safe.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do you mean by violence and aggression?

- Violence includes threatening to, trying to, or actually physically hurting someone. Aggression may be directed at people (e.g., yelling or swearing), or at things (e.g., hitting or breaking things).
- Sometimes when people feel stressed, anxious, scared, or angry, they may act out violently or be aggressive towards others as a way of dealing with their feelings. Their behaviour may also be related to their medical condition or the medications they are taking. **Every patient who comes to an NSHA Emergency Department for treatment is assessed for the potential of violence or aggression.**

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

- The wristband and sign show that you have been screened and that there is a potential risk. NSHA staff use a violence assessment screening tool to screen every patient's behaviour. Remember that many things can cause a person to act out in a violent or aggressive way. **There is no blame attached to this.**
- We are responsible for keeping you and others safe. We will assess your potential for violence or aggression regularly during your Emergency Department stay.

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

- You will wear a purple wristband for your current visit or stay. If you return for future visits at the same NSHA location, you will be re-screened.

Does this mean I will be treated differently?

- Staff will be aware of your potential for violence or aggression when providing your care. We will make a care plan for your individual needs to help us provide you with the best care that we can. We do this for all of our patients.
- Violence and aggression are just two of many things that we screen for. Screening lets us make personalized care plans, as well as keep our staff and patients safe.

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

- Under federal law, we must tell your family member(s) or caregiver(s) if we learn that they are at risk of serious harm. Under provincial Violence in the Workplace regulations, we must tell staff of the potential for violence or aggression towards them and the nature and extent of the risk, as well as any factors that may increase or decrease the extent of the risk.

What if I disagree with this assessment?

- If you have concerns or further questions, please ask to talk to the charge nurse. If you still have concerns after you talk to the charge nurse, please contact the Patient Relations team (toll-free) at 1-844-884-4177. NSHA welcomes, investigates, and addresses all concerns or complaints involving our patient relations.

Looking for more health information?

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here: <http://library.nshealth.ca/PatientGuides>

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

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

Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

Nova Scotia Health Authority promotes a smoke-free, vape-free, and scent-free environment.

Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!

www.nshealth.ca

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The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.
If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.