

REFERENCE GUIDE: RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR THE MISTREATMENT OF OLDER ADULTS

How to use the reference guide

This tool is completed by the frontline worker using the risk and protective factors identified in the service request, as well as subsequent assessments and follow-ups. It takes into account the characteristics of the older adult, the person(s) who mistreat(s), as well as the relational and environmental context. The purpose of the reference guide is to provide a visual summary of the risk and protective factors in order to support the identification of the assessment needs and the measures to implement.

Risk factor: Characteristic of the individual or the environment that precedes the outcome and that is associated with a significantly higher probability of the outcome occurring compared to the rate among the general population.

Protective factor: Positive influence that can improve the lives of individuals or the safety of a community.

RISK FACTORS AT HOME	
SPECIFIC TO THE OLDER ADULT (VULNERABILITY FACTORS)	
Physical health problems	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low income	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presence of cognitive impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hostile or passive behaviours	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living alone	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPECIFIC TO THE PERSON WHO MISTREATS	
Presence of cognitive impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental health problems	<input type="checkbox"/>
Substance abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dependence of the mistreated person (financial, emotional, relational)	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPECIFIC TO RELATIONSHIPS	
Living with the person who mistreats	<input type="checkbox"/>
History of family violence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpersonal conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tensions in the caregiving relationship	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social isolation and poor social network	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial dependence	<input type="checkbox"/>

RISK FACTORS AT A RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY

SPECIFIC TO THE OLDER ADULT

Social isolation or receiving few or no outside visitors

SPECIFIC TO STAFF MEMBERS

Poor knowledge and limited training

Personal problems, including a history of family violence, mental health problems, alcohol and/or drug abuse

Stress, emotional fatigue, or burnout

Negative attitude toward older adults in general, residents in particular, or toward work

SPECIFIC TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Shortage or lack of staff

Heavy workload that prevents professionals from providing quality care

PROTECTIVE FACTORS (HOME AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY)

SPECIFIC TO THE OLDER ADULT

Self-esteem

Ability to ask for help

Understanding emotions

Social participation

Ability to learn about oneself and society

Healthy lifestyle habits

SPECIFIC TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Availability of an adequate and supportive social network

Safe environment adapted to the older adult's needs

Sufficient financial resources

RISK FACTORS SPECIFIC TO IMMIGRANT OLDER ADULTS OR THOSE FROM CULTURAL MINORITIES

Belonging to an ethnocultural minority is a possible risk factor for mistreatment, but this cannot be confirmed with the scientific data available.

However, the understanding of the concept of **mistreatment is influenced by culture**. Therefore, it is recommended to **adopt a culturally sensitive approach** in potential or actual situations of mistreatment of individuals from ethnocultural minorities.