

Indicator for Violent Behavior

Danger assessment tools may vary by healthcare organization and even by department (such as emergency or psychiatric departments). Check with your organization to see what tools they may use.

As an example, Luck et al* describe a general tool, with the acronym **STAMP**. They identify five distinctive elements of observable behavior that indicate the potential for violence in patients and those who accompany them.

These five interconnected components are:

- S**taring and eye contact
- T**one and volume of voice
- A**nxiety
- M**umbling
- P**acing

As the potential for violence escalated, study participants reported that the number of STAMP components and cues increased. It should be noted that although these may represent a preliminary framework on which to build a useful nursing violence assessment tool, this study took place in a single ED, so the findings may not be generalizable.

*Lauretta Luck, Debra Jackson & Kim Usher, "STAMP: components of observable behaviour that indicate potential for patient violence in emergency departments," *Journal of Advanced Nursing* (2007), Volume 59, Issue 1, pages 11-19.