



# **Risky Business Tolerable vs. Intolerable - A Care Planning Dilemma**

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# Risk

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# Polarity of Risk

## Tolerable vs. Intolerable

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- Ethics
- Law
- Moral Distress
- Resources
- Organizational Risk
- Interprofessional Roles
- Professional Accountability
- Paternalism
- Self Determination
- Safety
- Ageism
- Social Responsibility





# Take A Closer Look at Risk

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- Why is Risk An Issue? - The Fraser Health Experience
- A Care Planning Dilemma
- Tolerable vs. Intolerable
- Risk Assessment Framework & Worksheets
- Case Study Application

# The Fraser Health Experience

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- There was no standardized risk assessment in the care planning process for vulnerable adults in Fraser Health
- There were varying practices and standards in use
- Vulnerable adults were often assessed too early which resulted in an assumption of incapability and premature facility placement
- Due to a lack of a risk assessment process patterns of practice led to unnecessary incapability consult requests (Dr. M.O. Agbayewa; Dr.P. O'Connor, 2010)

# A Care Planning Dilemma

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- **Least intrusive and ethical processes** need to be considered in relation to how the vulnerable adult functions in the context of their own community, home environment, and among whatever existing supports they may have
  - BC's Adult Guardianship Legislation protects the vulnerable adults right to autonomy and choice to live at risk
  - A Declaration of incapability can have devastating consequences as it potentially removes an individual's right to autonomous choice

# A Care Planning Dilemma

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- Does not replace the *Mental Health Act*
- Complements work done under the *Adult Guardianship Act*



# A Care Planning Dilemma

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- Choosing to live at risk and decision making ability cannot be determined by a test result or diagnosis (i.e. : SMMSE)
- Most measures of cognitive status do not evaluate cognitive functions such as judgment and reasoning (MoCa)
- Illness can temporarily impair an adult's ability to make decisions -Questionable capability can be reversible
- This cannot be determined by any one individual - A care team process and decision is needed

# Guiding Principles

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- The vulnerable adult's quality of life is of paramount consideration
- Team engages in culturally sensitive interventions
- The autonomy of the vulnerable adult is upheld
- Respect for the vulnerable adult's expressed choices/preferences
- Previously established advance care plan (verbal or written) guides the teams interventions
- Social network/caregiver are key partners

(Adapted with permission Dr. M.O Agbayewa, 2010)



# Speaking a Common Language

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- Risk is a chance of suffering or injury and harm to self and others. Risk is a matter of degree: degree of harm and the probability of that harm eventuating (Browne et al, 2001)

# Risk Is A Matter Of Degree

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- Severity
- Immediacy
- Frequency
- Probability

(RGP Ontario Primary Care tool Kit Sept 2008; Storey, Hart & Kropp 2010)



# Level of Risk

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- Risk within a domain maybe tolerable up to some point
- This area is commonly misunderstood

# Framing Risk Assessment

<b>Tolerable Risks</b>	<b>Intolerable Risks</b>
Factors requiring no intervention based on existing strengths , support system and environmental supports	Factors that are causing harm to self and/or others and cannot be mitigated with existing supports and services
Not a change in behaviour	Behaviour inconsistent with past pattern
	Risk within a domain may be tolerable up to some point



# A Risk Assessment Approach To Care Planning In Fraser Health

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- To provide a standardized risk assessment framework that crosses the care continuum for all Fraser Health programs and practice settings
- To provide a least intrusive and ethical process which is essential to autonomy, quality of life, and supports the individuals choice to live at risk
- To create and facilitate a respectful and dignified care plan that supports adults to live in the community for as long as safely possible



# Key Message

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- Using a risk assessment approach should be a pre-requisite to considering a request for an incapability assessment.
- **If there is no risk of harm to self or others it does not matter if the individual is incapable.**

# Enhances Current Practice

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- Documentation of risk assessment and mitigation approach will be completed and incorporated into the adult's care plan
- The risk assessment framework does not replace the profession specific assessment



# The Players

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- **Clinical Practice Guideline:** Risk Assessment-Identifying Tolerable and Intolerable Risk Factors and Informing Decision Making Ability
- **Risk Assessment Framework:** Identifying Tolerable & Intolerable Risk Factors (**Appendix A**)
- **Assessment Worksheets:** Identifying Actual Risks/Strengths (**Appendix B**)

# Using the Risk Assessment Framework and Worksheets

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- If intolerable risk is assumed completion of the risk worksheets are recommended (Appendix B)
- It would only be appropriate to move forward with a formal assessment if the risk is intolerable and there is a requirement to assess incapability
- At any point that there are changes to the older adult's situation or condition the risk assessment would be repeated.





# Interventions

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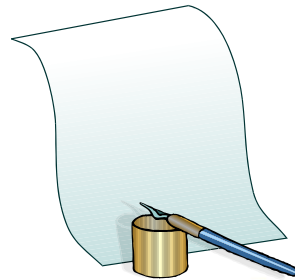
- Use risk assessment framework to identify current risks-ensure care team representation
- Develop a care plan which mitigates and identifies risks and provides assistance to address the risks
- Create a care plan consistent with the person's values, belief's, preferences and culture
- Monitor the outcomes and evaluate your plan



# Documentation

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- Documentation will move with the client across the care continuum
- Risk Assessment Framework (**Appendix A**)
- Assessment Worksheets (**Appendix B-optional**)
- Care plan as per each profession's standards of practice



# Case Study

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## Cougar Annie



# Closing Remarks

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- Cultural shift in practice
- Interprofessional care team process and decision
- Use the least intrusive and most effective approach
- **Ask the Question - Will the incapability determination lead to an improvement in the adult's situation?**
- Create a care plan which mitigates risks which is consistent with the person's values, beliefs, preferences and culture

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# Questions

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