

Psynergy Consulting

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Dear Colleague,

This letter is in response to your request to obtain a copy of the Violence Risk Scale (VRS, Wong & Gordon, 2000-5) and/or Violence Risk Scale-Sex Offender Version (VRS-SO; Wong, Olver, Nicholaichuk, Gordon, 2003) manual. The use of the VRS/VRS-SO only for research purposes does not require formal training. However, to maximize the reliable and valid administration of the scale, it is recommended. Where possible, we would like to include your data in our normative research. We will not publish any of your data without your expressed permission. Those who use the VRS/VRS-SO for clinical purposes should receive appropriate training. Information concerning future VRS/VRS-SO training can be obtained by contacting us at the above email addresses.

We concur with the recommendations by Hare (2003) regarding the appropriate use of assessment tools such as the Psychopathy Checklist- revised. Questions regarding who is qualified to administer and use an assessment tool “are issues more properly addressed by test publisher, professional organizations and other regulatory bodies, and by informed and competent evaluation in the courts” (Hare, 2003; p 16). Following are our recommended guidelines for the clinical use of the VRS/VRS-SO:

There are two levels of usage for the VRS/VRS-SO.

First Level Usage:

Rate the VRS/VRS-SO static and dynamic variables using interview and file information, sum the scores, calculate pro-rated scores, and identify treatment targets, strengths, and treatment readiness using the VRS/VRS-SO dynamic variable scores.

First Level Usage Qualifications:

Possess a post-secondary degree or diploma in an area of social or human services or health care studies, such as psychiatric nursing, or other related post-secondary education, plus appropriate training in the use of the VRS/VRS-SO. In the absence of such academic background or training, supervision by someone with the appropriate first or second-level qualifications and experience is required for first level usage.

Second Level Usage:

First level usage plus interpretation of the total VRS/VRS-SO pre- and/or post-treatment scores in terms of level of risk in relationship to normative samples, interpretation of any changes in risk, and providing treatment or other recommendations for decision making purposes incorporating VRS/VRS-SO ratings.

Second Level Usage Qualifications:

Possess an advanced academic degree in the social, medical or behavioral sciences such as M.A., M.Ed., M.S.W., Ph.D., D.Ed., or M.D., and/or have appropriate professional credentials such as registration with the local state or provincial registration body that regulates the assessment and diagnosis of mental disorder, plus appropriate training in the use of the VRS/VRS-SO. In the absence of such credentials, supervision by someone with the appropriate second-level qualifications and experience is required for second level usage.

A qualified person who supervises the assessment should take responsibility for users who do not meet all the above qualifications.

To purchase VRS/VRS-SO manuals and score sheets, please visit our website <http://www.psynergy.ca> or contact us directly. Thank you for your interest in the VRS/VRS-SO. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Stephen Wong & Audrey Gordon

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