



To: Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Providers
From: NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH), Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, Treatment, and Care Coordination
Subject: Forensic ACT Assessment Implementation
Date: February 19, 2026

The purpose of this memo is to inform all providers operating a Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) team that the forensic assessment timeframes as specified in the [OMH Forensic ACT Program Guidelines Addendum](#) will become **effective as of March 1, 2026**. The timeframes for completing the required forensic assessments apply to all new admissions from the effective date onward. Admissions made before March 1, 2026, that do not have completed forensic assessments must complete these assessments during the individual's next service plan review. FACT assessments and timeframes will be included in the forthcoming FACT Standards of Care as part of routine OMH Licensing visits.

Key Forensic Assessment Timeframes:

- **Violence Risk Screening (VRS)** must be completed within seven (7) business days of admission, and annually thereafter.
- **Violence Risk Assessment** must be completed within 45 to 60 calendar days of admission, or in conjunction with the Initial Comprehensive Assessment, for all individuals for whom risk assessment is indicated by the VRS. The Violence Risk Assessment can be completed using either the HCR-20 or START. Annual assessment is required for individuals whose VRS indicates violence risk.
- **Criminogenic Needs and Risk Assessment** must be completed within 45 to 60 calendar days of admission in conjunction with the Initial Comprehensive Assessment. This assessment must be completed using the Level of Service/ Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI), and FACT teams are encouraged to use the LS/CMI Interview Guide when conducting the LS/CMI assessment. The LS/CMI is required only at the time of the Initial Comprehensive Assessment.
 - Note: If the referring source completed the LS/CMI, the FACT team may use the existing assessment to inform service plans and must be included in the individual's chart.

Trainings on the forensic assessments are available on the [CUCS Academy for Justice Informed Practice](#) website. See Appendix A for a full list of trainings, tools, and resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna McDonough at Anna.McDonough@omh.ny.gov.



Appendix A:

- Violence Risk Screening Training: [Catalog | CUCS Academy](#)
- Violence Risk Tool: [Catalog | CUCS Academy](#)
- START Training: [Catalog | CUCS Academy](#)
- START Tool and Manual (available for purchase): [\(PDF\) Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability \(START\): Instructors' guide and workbook](#)
- HCR-20 Training (available for purchase): [HCR-20-V3 Overview](#)
 - LIVE HCR-20 trainings are supported by OMH Division of Forensic Services and are provided to all Team Leads.
- HCR-20 Manual and Worksheets (available for purchase): [Historical-Clinical-Risk Management-20, Version 3 \(HCR-20 V3\)](#)
- LS/CMI Training: [Catalog | CUCS Academy](#)
 - For the training you will need, at minimum, the QuickScore Forms (LSC100) and case sample, which are available for download on the training site.
 - Please note: Scoring is not required by teams, but the training will include use of the Quickscore form.
- LS/CMI Tool and Manual (available for purchase): [LS/CMI™ - Multi-Health Systems](#)
 - Recommended to have a copy of the Case Management Protocol (LSC140), and the Interview Guides (LSC060)