



Frequently Asked Questions

- Q.** Are Family Advocacy Program clinicians required to use the IPPI-RAT? Can we continue to use other tools?

A. Yes. The IPPI-RAT is DoD-sanctioned and should be used by all FAP clinicians. This requirement will be reflected in future FAP policy. Service policy will define other research-informed assessment tools approved for use.
- Q.** Why are there two manuals for the IPPI-RAT?

A. A user manual for FAP clinicians and an expanded manual for supervisors are provided to reinforce the web-based training and to serve as a desk-side guide.
- Q.** Can the IPPI-RAT be completed by the client?

A. The IPPI-RAT is a clinical tool and should be completed by the clinician after completing all interviews and reviewing additional information gathered. It should never be given to the client(s) to complete.
- Q.** Should the IPPI-RAT be completed only when there is an allegation of physical abuse?

A. The IPPI-RAT is to be used to assess risk in ALL cases when a client has been referred for an incident of domestic abuse. This includes allegations of partner emotional, physical and sexual abuse, and neglect.
- Q.** When both partners are identified as potential victims and potential offenders, how is the IPPI-RAT completed?

A. An IPPI-RAT has to be completed twice, once for each potential offender.
- Q.** What is the protocol if the clinician's judgement differs from the risk score determined by the IPPI-RAT?

A. The IPPI-RAT is a research-based, highly predictable and dependable risk assessment tool that helps clinicians provide more reliable assessments than over-reliance on subjective intuition and instincts. The clinician may use additional information to determine the case is of higher risk than the IPPI-RAT suggests, but he or she may not use clinician judgement to determine that the case is of lower risk. Concerns about reliability of the tool's outcome should be discussed with the clinical supervisor.
- Q.** The IPPI-RAT does not assess for all issues that may have contributed to an intimate partner violence incident or future risk. How do I compensate for this?

A. The IPPI-RAT contains 15 items that were shown to be highly predictive for assessing the risk of a future incident with physical injury. Assessment for contributors such as substance abuse, depression, mental illness and other risk factors should be considered and appropriately assessed.
- Q.** Can the IPPI-RAT be used to monitor changes in risk over time?

A. The IPPI-RAT is to be used in all the initial assessments, including the initial assessment of a subsequent incident. It is not designed to monitor changes in risk over time.